

Forgotten letter reveal new side of Lennon

## Israel and Jordan discuss joint projects

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli and Jordanian negotiators met Tuesday to discuss joint development projects for the Jordan Rift Valley, including construction of the world's "lowest" amusement park, officials said. The two delegations also discussed details of an agreement to build a joint "peace airport" serving Eilat and Aqaba, the foreign ministry said. The two big projects plus a series of more modest development plans for the Jordan Rift Valley are to be presented to the Middle East and North Africa regional economic summit to be held in Cairo on Nov. 12-14. The joint Israeli-Jordanian Cooperation Group was formed in the framework of the October 1994 peace treaty between the two countries. Tuesday's meeting in Tel Aviv was also attended by the U.S. ambassador to Israel, Martin Indyk.

# Jordan Times

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## Israel opens tunnel along Al Aqsa wall, sparking violent Palestinian protests

### Islamic authorities call for strike

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinians protested violently Tuesday after Israeli authorities, working under cover of darkness, opened a new entrance to an archaeological tunnel along the Western Wall of Jerusalem's Al Aqsa Mosque compound.

"This is a crime, a big crime against our religion and holy places," protested Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat after Israeli authorities announced that the project had been completed secretly overnight.

"This Israeli plot to change the features of Jerusalem and Judaize the city before the subject comes up for negotiation is madness," he charged in Gaza City.

Islamic authorities called for a general strike by Palestinians and a protest march on the Al Aqsa Mosque compound to protest the Israeli moves on the compound.

The Islamic Higher Committee (IHC), the highest Muslim authority in Jerusalem, "called on Palestinians in Jerusalem to go on strike (Wednesday) and gather in the premises of Al Aqsa Mosque."

It called on Palestinians, "after performing mid-day prayers, to march in the streets of the city in protest" against the tunnel, the Jerusalem Media and Communications Centre reported.

The tunnel "threatens the security of Al Aqsa Mosque

and its foundations and has caused cracks in the walls of neighbouring buildings," the IHC said, calling the opening "a severe aggression against our people's rights in Jerusalem."

Protests and stone-throwing erupted at the Al Aqsa compound and throughout Arab East Jerusalem, where police fired rubber bullets at one point to break up a crowd of demonstrators.

Eleven people were arrested for throwing stones and bottles at police and two Israeli-registered vehicles were burned, a police spokesman said.

In one incident, some 400 people inside the mosque compound rained stones onto the adjacent wall.

No injuries were reported in any of the incidents.

Palestinian officials and local residents also held a sit-in demonstration at the exit to the new tunnel, located on the Via Dolorosa deep in the Muslim quarter of Jerusalem's Old City, and merchants closed their shops in protest.

Israeli officials said the project involved extending an existing tunnel next to the Western Wall by several hundred metres, uncovering archaeological remains dating back 2,500 years.

The new exit will allow up to 400,000 people to visit the tunnel per year, compared to only 70,000 previously, Israel's tourism

(Continued on page 7)



An Israeli policeman raises his hands for Palestinian notables to stop their protest march towards a newly-opened tunnel leading from the Via Dolorosa to the Western Wall in Jerusalem's Old City on Tuesday (Reuters photo)

## Regent denounces Israeli actions, says Jordan will exert efforts to address them

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, said Tuesday Israel's excavations and reopening of a tunnel running between Al Omari School and Al Aqsa Mosque in Arab East Jerusalem was a blatant provocation of Arab and Muslim sentiments.

and Islamic architecture there. The Israeli actions, said the Regent, undermines all the legitimate aspirations of all believers to maintain Jerusalem as a "spiritual and civilizational citadel" as well as a symbol of hope for future generations.

"Jerusalem symbolises peace for all the believers in God," the Regent said. "As such, the Israeli authorities must not disregard Arab and Muslim feelings for the city of Jerusalem as the bond for peace. It was the cause of wars just as it is the uniting symbol for peace."

(Continued on page 7)

## King begins visit to Bahrain

MANAMA (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein arrived in Manama Tuesday on a visit upon an invitation from Sheikh Isa Ben Salman Al Khalifa of Bahrain.

The King was received by Sheikh Isa, Bahraini Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa Ben Salman Al Khalifa, Sheikh Hamad Ben Salman Al Khalifa and other senior Bahraini officials.

Sheikh Isa hosted a banquet in the honour of the King and the accompanying delegation.

Accompanying the King are His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah, Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabarti, Royal Court Chief Awn Khasawneh and the King's Adviser for Tribal Affairs Hmeidi Al Fayed.

The King and Sheikh Isa were to hold talks on bilateral relations, the means to boost them and regional



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan takes the oath as Regent prior to His Majesty King Hussein's departure for Bahrain on Tuesday (Petra photo)

issues of common concern.

The King was seen off from Amman by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who was sworn in before King Hussein as Regent, royal family members as well as King's advisers, Cabinet ministers and other senior officials.

A Royal Decree was issued on Tuesday appoint-

ing Minister of Higher Education Abdullah Ensour as acting prime minister during Prime Minister Kabarti's absence abroad. The Royal Decree also appointed Interior Minister Awad Khleifat as acting Defence Minister and Minister of Public Works and Housing Abdul Hadi Majali as acting foreign minister.

## UNRWA seeks Arab contribution to help it address budget deficit

By Ghalia Alul  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) Commissioner General Peter Hansen on Tuesday urged rich Arab countries to contribute to the agency which is facing a budget deficit of \$9.3 million this year.

"If the rich Arab countries, which only share one per cent of UNRWA's burden, contribute 15 per cent of the agency's budget, amounting to \$60 million next year, we will not have a financial crisis," Mr. Hansen told reporters at the conclusion of an extraordinary meeting of major donor and host governments in Amman.

Mr. Hansen said that during the meeting on Monday, donors reaffirmed their support and commitment to the Palestinian refugees through increasing their contributions to UNRWA, adding that donor countries pledged some \$14.5 million in support of the agency's work in 1996.

However, he added, the international community

should increase its contributions as well as its donor base to allow the agency to reinstate the reduction in services through "serious" austerity measures in 1993 and 1996.

"We cannot continue with the austerity measures. They will undermine the quality of what UNRWA has done," Mr. Hansen told a press conference.

He added that the austerity measures did not lead to the closure of UNRWA schools, hospitals, health centres, but UNRWA had to suspend the hiring of teachers, sanitary workers, doctors and nurses.

The agency also had to reduce its travel budget, which, Mr. Hansen said, decreased the efficiency of UNRWA's services as headquarters specialists could no longer travel and visit UNRWA's field operations.

Mr. Hansen stressed that these measures could not be removed until the agency receives more international contribution.

"UNRWA does not enjoy reducing services and it is very painful for us to have to do that. There is nothing

that we can do more than (eliminate) our austerity measures and cuts. (We can only do that) when we have more money," said Mr. Hansen.

Mr. Hansen said that UNRWA was "completely" committed to increasing its services and maintaining their quality. "But we can only do that with the necessary international support. I do hope the entire international community will chip in," he added.

A statement by the agency said that in the meeting, which discussed the agency's cumulative deficit since 1992 and its current financial crisis, the United States pledged \$5 million, Denmark \$1.8 million, the United Kingdom \$1.55 million, Norway \$1 million, and the Netherlands \$1.8 million, (earmarked for Lebanon).

Sweden pledged about \$20 million for UNRWA in 1997, an increase of about \$600,000 over its 1996 pledge.

Ireland promised an additional amount of \$100,000

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## Israelis disperse protest in Hebron

HEBRON (AFP) — The Israeli army on Tuesday brutally dispersed a demonstration by some 400 Palestinians demanding the reopening of a vegetable market in Hebron closed by Israel two and a half years ago.

Soldiers pushed Palestinian Higher Education Minister Hanan Ashrawi to the ground as she stood among a crowd of protesters, and she had to be taken away with pains to the chest, witnesses said.

Six Palestinians were also arrested for throwing stones, tomatoes and cucumbers at the soldiers and around 20 Jewish settlers holding a small counter-demonstration, witnesses said.

"No peace with settlements," read one banner unfurled by the Palestinians, who were joined in their march by Hebron Mayor Mustafa Natshe and Agriculture Minister Abdul Jawad Saleh.

A large force of soldiers prevented the march from reaching the market of Palestinian shops, which the army closed in February 1994 when a Jewish settler massacred at least 30 Palestinians praying in the nearby Ibrahim Mosque.

Settlers took advantage of the closure to take possession of four of the shops earlier this month. Police say the settlers have been removed, but Palestinians accuse police of continuing to allow settlers access to

(Continued on page 7)

## Kabariti: Opposition should offer solutions for country's problems instead of attacking government

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti has challenged the opposition to provide viable options to solving the country's various problems of poverty, unemployment, indebtedness and corruption instead of criticising the government policies and placing obstacles on the path of reform.

Attending Monday's regular meeting with journalists, the prime minister said the opposition, as a minority, should accept the decisions of the majority as long as it does not have any valid alternatives to the Kingdom's persistent problems of poverty and unemployment.

"We don't have a magic wand to solve all our problems," Mr. Kabariti said. "I call on you (writers and journalists) as I already called on the Lower House of Parliament to offer your analysis and find solutions if you have any. What the government did (over the issue of bread subsidies) is that it had a problem and had to act."

"I do not see a crisis," the prime minister said. "I see people in crisis," he added, in reference to the opposition.

Mr. Kabariti, who the opposition has demanded his resignation, accused his opponents of "seeking to create problems instead of solving existing ones."

"The government should not be blamed for not want-

## Premier hints at pardon for detainees, points to 'political factor' in Asmar case

DURING HIS encounter with journalists Monday, the prime minister hinted that 54 people who are expected to appear at the State Security Court, charged with instigating last month's riot could receive a special pardon that would also break the political deadlock between the government and the opposition.

"The decision to pardon those people is in the gracious hands of His Majesty King Hussein," Mr. Kabariti said without elaborating.

Meanwhile, the prime minister defended the security forces against allegations that they used illegal methods, including torture, in the course of investigations and questioning of suspects.

The allegations appeared in the weekly press and especially in the Islamic Action Front (IAF) newspaper, Al Sabeel.

The newspaper in its last week's edition published an article that alleged that Issam Najjar, a Hamas activist, was tortured during his detention earlier this month.

Al Sabeel's chief editor, Hilmi Asmar, has since been detained for violating the Press and Publications Law.

Mr. Kabariti told the journalists that the IAF, through an official decision by its executive bureau, had forced Mr. Asmar

to publish the torture claim in order to tarnish the security forces' image.

"The press, especially the Islamic press, is expected to adhere to objectivity and credibility when reporting," Mr. Kabariti said.

He told Mr. Asmar's colleagues, who urged his immediate release, that the Al Sabeel editor was "being treated in a dignified and respectful manner," and that there is "no fear for his well-being."

Sources close to the case have said that Mr. Asmar was reluctant to publish the report about the torture claim, since he knew it would lead him to face trouble with the judicial authorities, but that the IAF had forced his hand in this matter.

"Today, Mr. Asmar would rather stay in prison than having to face the court with the story of what had actually happened (regarding publication of the claim)," one of the sources said. "The government, however, seems to be determined to take him to court to reveal exactly how the torture claims came to be published," the source added. "The prime minister in fact said as much in his press conference."

The Jordan Press Association (JPA) has lobbied hard over the past few days to secure the release of Mr. Asmar, who is the association's vice-president.

ing to reach an agreement with the opposition," the prime minister said. "It is the opposition that is not seeking harmony with the government."

"If (their opposition) wasn't over bread, it would have been over sugar. And if it weren't over sugar, it would have been over Iraq or Iran. There is an opposition here but a defeated one."

The conflict between the opposition, led by the Islamic Action Front, and the Kabariti government was triggered by the Cabinet decision to lift bread and fodder subsidies which in turn led to riots breaking out in the city of Karak and other southern towns in mid-August.

The regime had blamed Iraqi sympathisers, mainly the Jordan-branch of the

Arab Baath Socialist Party of fomenting the riots which were apparently aimed at toppling Mr. Kabariti who has been vocal in his criticism of the Iraqi regime of President Saddam Hussein.

Over 50 people, including Baath activists will stand trial soon charged with instigating the riots and in

(Continued on page 7)

## Cracks appear in newfound Baghdad-Kurdish alliance

FAYDA, Iraq (AFP) — Iraq's new-found alliance with a Kurdish group showed signs of strain on Tuesday after an influential Iraqi daily voiced its distrust and government officials were abruptly barred from entering Kurdistan.

The incidents occurred after Washington urged the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) to distance itself from Baghdad after forging a military alliance in the last month against the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK).

"Leave immediately unless you want us to interrogate you," a KDP Peshmerga (fighter) manning a checkpoint barked at Iraqi Ministry of Information officials who had travelled here with foreign journalists on Monday.

With a giant portrait of KDP leader Massoud Barzani's late father hanging in the background, a heavy-set Peshmerga with a pistol strapped to his waist grew red with rage when he learned one of the Iraqis was an army reservist.

"How dare you come here?" he bellowed at the checkpoint in Fayda, 500

kilometres north of the capital Baghdad. "Journalists are welcome if they come from Turkey."

Iraqi officers had earlier warned the ministry officials it was not safe to travel north, even though Iraqi troops had struck an alliance with the KDP to help it recapture the main Kurdish city of Erbil from the PUK on Aug. 31.

It allowed the KDP to extend its grip over most of northern Iraq and Baghdad to declare the return of its influence in a region which has been under rebel control for five years.

The PUK claimed Tuesday that despite its rout in most of the region, its fighters had repulsed a series of attacks by its rival in eastern Iraq, killing 129 KDP fighters between Sept. 18 and 22.

In contrast to its reception of the Iraqi officials, the KDP was happy to see the arrival of goods and gasoline which have been trucked from the south since Baghdad lifted an embargo on the Kurdish region in the last month.

"It is a very lucrative market for the Peshmergas who tax everything coming in," an Iraqi driver said before heading into the mountains cradling the Kurdish city of Dohuk three kilometres up the road.

Meanwhile, Kurds travelling south through an Iraqi checkpoint received a much warmer welcome. "The Revolutionary Command Council has decreed a general amnesty. Our Kurdish brothers are welcome," an Iraqi officer said. "The Americans will not manage to divide us."

But the official Babel newspaper, run by President Saddam Hussein's son Uday, warned: "We should not have any illusions about our tactical alliances with some people and factions and think they are guaranteed 100 per cent."

It did not mention the KDP by name. "These people were born and have grown up in the arms of the West and they have a long history of allegiance to foreigners and plots to break up Iraq," said the paper.

The article signed by Abu

(Continued on page 7)



# Amman meeting reviews ways to strengthen U.N. system and role of NGOs

Experts look at differing scenarios and priorities and how U.N. could work better with NGOs and vice-versa

AMMAN (UNIS) — Representatives of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) from the Arab region met Tuesday to discuss means of strengthening the United Nations system and the role of the NGOs in that process in light of U.N. reform and restructuring efforts. The discussion aimed at getting NGOs to "brainstorm" about the general issues of concern to the United Nations and the ways NGOs and U.N. offices can best work together.

Chaired by Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Bint Talal, the NGO panel discussion was organised by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), in response to a request by the U.N. Department of Public Information (DPI). This activity follows the recently-held 49th annual DPI/NGO conference which took place at U.N. headquarters in New York between Sept. 10 and 12, under the theme "The United Nations: Facing the Challenges of a Changing World." The issue of strengthening the U.N. system one of the main items on the agenda of the conference.

The panel comprised Dr. Ali Attiga, former United Nations resident representative to Jordan and director-designate of the Arab Thought Forum; Dr. Elham Al Kallab, former director of Lebanon's Family Planning Association and a professor at the University of Lebanon; Ms. Zahim Kamal, coordinator of the women's issues team in Palestine and a general manager for planning and development of women's participation in the Palestinian Ministry of Planning; Ms. Fatima Da'noun, secretary general of Moroccan National Women's Federation; and Ms. Farida Naqqash, Egyptian journalist and secretary general of the Egyptian Women's Federation. Also on the panel representing the United Nations was ESCWA Deputy Secretary Dr. Thoraya Obaid, Jordanian government officials, heads of U.N. agencies in Amman, NGO representatives and journalists also participated in the panel discussion.

ESCWA's Dr. Obaid explained that the panel discussion would revolve around three general, inter-related issues: How do

NGOs perceive the United Nations and its international role? What role can NGOs play in this strengthening process that would allow the United Nations to function effectively as a link between governments and NGOs for the achievement of comprehensive, sustainable development and world peace?

Princess Basma, who is actively involved in U.N. issues in many different capacities, not least of which are as honorary ambassador to the United Nations — both for human development issues and for the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), emphasised that today's forum was an opportunity to debate and discuss the situation of the United Nations and its relationship with NGOs. "We aim to discuss how we see the future role of the United Nations, what methodologies of work between the U.N. and NGOs are required to meet changing needs, and to come up with certain ideas and recommendations that might help us clarify our vision of the future of the United Nations and its relationship with NGOs."

According to Dr. Kallab, "the United Nations has secured national and international recognition for NGOs, which has led to a shift in perception of NGOs from charity organisations to development-focused civil society organisations." Nevertheless, Dr. Kallab added, to many NGOs, the mechanism of dealing with the United Nations remains a mystery. "The doors and keys to entering into partnership with the U.N. are unknown to many NGOs, and the U.N. must develop mechanisms that clearly define the role of NGOs with regards to the U.N.," she said.

Speaking of Palestinian perceptions of the United Nations, Ms. Kamal said that U.N. organisations are "a puzzle to the general public," due to a lack of coordination and overlap in programmes among the various U.N. organisations. "The U.N. needs to clarify its role to the public, so that Palestinians learn to distinguish between the political role of the Security Council and its resolutions and the developmental role of the U.N.'s agencies," she said. On a more positive note, Ms.

Kamal praised the 1996 UNDP Human Development Report as being very important to Palestine, because it clarifies the Palestinian situation in terms of such indicators as health and labour, and because its measures and standards take women into consideration.

Looking back to the establishment of the United Nations in 1945, Ms. Da'noun said that the creation of the international organisation was aimed at preventing hegemony and ensuring equality to all. Today, Ms. Da'noun emphasised, it is very important to ensure that the United Nations functions on the basis of participation, equality, impartiality and openness.

The remarks of Ms. Naqqash, who was unable to be present at the panel discussion, were summarised by Dr. Obaid. According to Ms. Naqqash, the role of the NGOs has been growing with the rise of poverty and unemployment and with the drop in the standard of living. But while NGOs are growing in importance, the United Nations has not developed a mechanism to measure and evaluate the effectiveness of NGOs, and its information about the work of NGOs remains inadequate. In addition, Ms. Naqqash said that the reputation of the United Nations as an arm of the United States has shaken the public's confidence in the credibility of the United Nations. Such confidence needs to be re-created.

Dr. Attiga pointed out that United Nations system can be strengthened by strengthening the role of General Assembly, through making its resolutions binding, and through giving it legislative powers. In addition, the Security Council must be restructured and its membership expanded. As for the role of NGOs in this strengthening process, Dr. Attiga said that the United Nations was wasting the opportunity of raising its credibility and popularity through NGOs. "The U.N. should benefit from these (NGO) channels, as they can put pressure on their national governments to support the United Nations."



Indians return from the United Arab Emirates wheeling all their belongings out of Bombay airport (Reuters photo)

## Ambassador calls on all illegal Indian residents to leave UAE under amnesty

ABU DHABI (AFP) — India has asked the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to extend an amnesty for thousands of illegal migrants who want to go home but are afraid of missing the deadline, an Indian diplomat said Monday.

The Indian Ambassador to the UAE, M.P.M. Menon, said he had proposed the extension of the amnesty announced by the UAE two months ago to allow foreigners who have violated immigration laws to leave.

He said his embassy had so far issued around 38,000 passes for Indians seeking to leave the UAE and the figure is set to reach 50,000 by the end of the Sept. 30 deadline, when a stricter immigration law is enforced.

"I met last week with the interior minister and asked for an extension of the amnesty because some of our people could miss the deadline and become stranded in the UAE," Mr. Menon told

AFP in an interview.

"The minister promised to relay the request to the president. We do hope the amnesty will be extended so our expatriates will have time to go."

Responding to a proposal from Mr. Menon, the UAE government issued an unprecedented amnesty in August in a bid to flush out overstaying foreigners and illegal migrants who have sneaked in by sea over the past two decades.

Thousands of Indians and other Asians have rushed to their embassies to take advantage of the pardon before the enforcement of the new immigration law, which includes harsher punishment for violators.

More than 70,000 expatriates from India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Philippines, Pakistan and Iran have so far left the UAE and the number will exceed 100,000 by the end of the month, according to officials and travel agents.

Mr. Menon said Air India had to operate 16 additional flights to cope with the surge in departing Indians, bringing to 128 the total number of flights operated between the UAE and the sub-continent every week.

"We are ready to help all Indians who want to go home. But it is up to the authorities here to decide on the action against those who miss the deadline in case the amnesty was not extended," the ambassador said.

Most of the departing Indians are from the state of Kerala, a key labour supplier to the UAE and other oil-rich Gulf states.

Mr. Menon dismissed reports that the exodus would hit Kerala's economy, saying those leaving are a fraction of the state's population of 30 million.

He said illegal migrants were not included in the estimates of the number of UAE-based Indian workers, whom

he put at around 750,000, nearly one third of the UAE's total population of about 2.3 million. Their remittances to India are estimated at around \$1.5 billion a year, he said.

Apart from Indians in the UAE, there are about 350,000 Pakistanis, 90,000 Filipinos and 300,000 expatriates from Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Iran.

Police records showed more than 25,000 people, mostly Asians, have been seized while trying to enter the wealthy emirates illegally over the past 20 years in search for jobs. But security sources said the captured were far outnumbered by those who have managed to sneak in.

The UAE, previously a poor desert oasis, is one of the richest countries, with its per capita income standing at around \$16,500 in 1995. It sits atop 10 per cent of the world's proven oil reserves.

## CAABU urges implementation of oil-for-food deal

AMMAN (J.T.) — The London-based Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding (CAABU) has called for the implementation of the oil-for-food agreement reached between the government of Iraq and the United Nations.

The agreement, signed in May and expected to have been implemented in September, was frozen following the Iraqi army's move into northern Iraq in late August. The U.S. now says it might want to renegotiate some of the terms of the accord, and reports indicate that Washington could be deliberately stalling the

implementation of the deal by using technicalities.

In a press release sent to the Jordan Times, CAABU said:

"The effectiveness of sanctions has long been a matter of controversy and the case of Iraq is a particularly appropriate example. Imposed in 1991 after the American-led coalition victory in the Gulf war had failed to topple Saddam Hussein, the principal impact of the very harsh United Nations-imposed sanctions has been to cause profound misery to the Iraqi population while leaving the leadership resiliently intact.

"It was a relief to many who

had felt uneasy about the use of such draconian measures against a civilian population, therefore, when the U.N. introduced a plan whereby Iraq would be allowed to sell some of its oil in order to provide food and other humanitarian assistance to its people. Under the agreement, the Baghdad regime was allowed to sell \$2 billion worth of oil every six months. The U.N. in Erbil was responsible for the distribution of supplies. This has now been suspended by U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali on the pretext that, as a result of recent developments in Iraqi Kurdistan, U.N. personnel in northern Iraq

are no longer safe. There are rumours that it may be some months before the oil-for-food plan is put back in place. In the meantime, the Iraqi population is forced to endure further suffering.

"The Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding is of the opinion that this course of action is both immoral and also unproductive. Far from pressuring President Saddam Hussein, it merely adds to the accumulated resentment and anguish of the Iraqi people. The two sides are further away than ever from reaching even the most minimum consensus."

## Babel says French support insincere

BAGHDAD (AP) — A newspaper owned by President Saddam Hussein's son on Tuesday accused France of insincerity in its opposition to recent U.S. missile attacks against Iraq.

A full-page article in Babel, owned by President Saddam's son Uday, said France publicly opposed the missile strikes because it wants to secure business deals with Iraq when United Nations sanctions are lifted.

But the paper said that in private, France had no real objections to the U.S. military action.

"We believe that there exists a Franco-American pact, even if it has not been made public," Babel said.

"Exchanges between the two sides give the impression that the French made the Americans understand that they had no serious objections to military action against Iraq (even if) they declared publicly that they opposed it," the newspaper added.

Babel said France has traditionally lagged behind the United States and Britain in securing business deals in the Gulf, so the French "made the Americans understand that they should leave Iraq (for the French) to grab the biggest slice."

Iraq has been isolated internationally since its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Though France, Russia and China have shown some sympathy for Iraq, the newspaper singled them all out for criticism Tuesday. The newspaper said China's opposition to the U.S. strikes was, like France's, dictated by trade concerns.

Russian objections, it said, reflected Moscow's disillusionment with western support and its fears that the United States might be on its way to controlling most of the world's oil supplies.

France was part of the Gulf war coalition that ousted Iraq from Kuwait. In addition, French, British and American jets have enforced the "no-fly zones" over southern and northern Iraq since the end of the 1991 war. However, France has refused to patrol the expanded no-fly zone in the south declared earlier this month by the United States. As defined by the Americans, the no-fly-zone in the south is now the 33rd Parallel, which reaches the southern suburbs of Baghdad.

The U.S. missile strikes on Sept. 3 and 4 sought to punish Iraq for sending its army into the Kurdish "safe haven" in northern Iraq.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

#### PROGRAMME TWO

- 15:05 ..... Iris — The Happy Professor
- 15:20 ..... Flintstones
- 15:45 ..... The Adventures
- 16:10 ..... Kelly
- 16:30 ..... Earth Revealed
- 17:00 ..... NewsFlash
- 17:02 ..... Document — La France Aux 1000 Villages
- 17:30 ..... Doc. — Sacrifice Ou La Legende
- 18:00 ..... Document — Les Enfants Du Voyage
- 19:00 ..... Le Journal
- 19:15 Magazine — Sport Et Musique
- 19:30 ..... News Headlines
- 19:35 ..... Evening Shade
- 20:00 ..... Superstars of Action
- 20:30 ..... Chancer
- 21:10 ..... Hunter
- 22:00 ..... News in English
- 22:25 ..... The Bold And the Beautiful
- 23:10 ..... Bugs

#### PRAYER TIMES

- 04:04 ..... Fajr
- 05:12 ..... Sunrise/Duha
- 11:28 ..... Dhuhur
- 14:54 ..... 'Asr
- 17:34 ..... Maghreb
- 18:52 ..... 'Isha

#### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifteh, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.

Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366

Anglican Church Tel. 653826.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

Amman International Church Tel. 827126

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328.

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457

The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932.

Church of Nazarene Tel. 676691.

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190.

#### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Relative warm weather conditions will prevail with temperatures 3-5 degrees centigrade above average and winds southeasterly moderate to active. In Aqaba, it will be hot and dusty, winds northerly moderate to active, and seas calm.

Amman ..... 18/34

Aqaba ..... 23/41

Deserts ..... 17/26

Jordan Valley ..... 22/40

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 33, Aqaba 40

Humidity readings: Amman 20 per cent, Aqaba 19 per cent.

#### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

Dr. Mukhlis Halaseh 819220

Dr. Rulhi Sukkar ..... 856457

Dr. Ghazi Abu Sheikhah 752405

Dr. Youssef Al Faqih ..... 790104

Firas pharmacy ..... 661912

Ferdows pharmacy ..... 890280

Al Asema pharmacy ..... 637055

Al Salam pharmacy ..... 636730

Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644945

Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

Nairoukh pharmacy ..... 626372

Najib pharmacy ..... 847632

#### IRBID:

Dr. Ahmad Qanu ..... 281484

Al Quds pharmacy ..... (—)

#### ZARQA:

Dr. Rabah Al Bourini 990312

Khalifeh pharmacy ..... 985417

#### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Fuel Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate

Rescue 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade ..... 617101

Blood Bank ..... 775121

Highway Police ..... 843402

Traffic Police ..... 896390

Public Security Department 630321

Hotel Complaints ..... 605800

Price Complaints ..... 661176

Water and Sewerage Complaints ..... 897467

Amman Municipality Complaints ..... 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) ..... 121

Overseas Calls ..... 010230

Central Amman Telephone Repairs ..... 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television ..... 773111

Radio Jordan ..... 774111

Water Authority ..... 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 08-53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

#### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32

Khalidi Maternity, 644281/6

Akileh Maternity, 642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity

642362

Malhas, J. Amman ..... 636140

Palestine ..... Shmeisani 607071

Shmeisani Hospital 669131

University Hospital 845845

Al-Muasher Hospital 667279

The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37

Al-Abil, Abdali ..... 664164/6

Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3

Al-Bashir ..... 775111/26

Army, Marka ..... 891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50

Amal Hospital ..... 674155

The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery ..... 865199

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323

Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560

Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732

Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555

Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275

Ibn Al Nafees Hospital (02)247100

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) infor-

mation department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200 where it should always be verified.

Information on other flights are supplied on phone 08 (52700) or 08(53250).

#### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

08:30 ..... Jeddah (RJ)

09:10 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

09:45 Larnaca, Damascus (RJ)

09:50 ..... Doha, Bahrain (RJ)

14:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

15:10 ..... Salalah (add) (RJ)

16:30 ..... Toronto, Montreal (RJ)

17:00 ..... Paris (RJ)

18:00 ..... Brussels, Geneva (RJ)

18:15 ..... London, Berlin (RJ)

18:35 ..... Tel Aviv (add) (RJ)

19:00 ..... Rome (RJ)

19:10 ..... Madrid, Vienna (RJ)

22:30 ..... Istanbul (RJ)

22:30 ..... Beirut (RJ)

02:55 ..... Frankfurt (RJ)

03:25 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)

04:50 ..... Cairo (RJ)

#### Other Flights

11:00 ..... Sanaa (IY)

11:15 ..... Jeddah (SV)

12:00 Karachi, Abu Dhabi (PK)

12:15 ..... Cairo (MS)

Babel says  
French  
support  
insincere



His Majesty King Hussein officially welcomes Sudanese Ambassador Omar Abdul Majid Abdul Rahman (Petra photo)

## New ambassadors present credentials in ceremony

AMMAN (Petra) — Nine newly-appointed ambassadors to Jordan Tuesday presented their credentials to His Majesty King Hussein at separate ceremonies held at Raghadan Palace and attended by Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti.

Chief of the Royal Court Awn Khasawneh, Chief Chamberlain Prince Raad Ben Zeid and HRH Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, director of the National Security Council.

After the presentation of credentials, the ambassadors laid wreaths at the tombs of the late King Abdullah Ben Al Hussein and the late King Talal Ben Abdullah, father of King Hussein.

## Kabariti reviews peace process with former ambassador

AMMAN (Petra) — Issues relating to the Middle East peace process and obstacles to its progress were Tuesday reviewed at the meeting between Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti and Former Canadian Ambassador to Jordan and Chief of the Executive Bureau for the Middle East Peace process at the Canadian Foreign Ministry Andrew Robinson.

## Ministers of Awqaf prepare for conference

AMMAN (Petra) — The Executive Council of the Ministers of Awqaf in Arab and Islamic Countries will hold a meeting today under the patronage of HRH Crown Prince Hassan to review issues for the forthcoming meeting by Islamic countries' Awqaf ministers in Jakarta next year.

cooperation among Islamic nations and emphasised that the council members will discuss global perception of Islam and how to best deal with hostile campaigns directed at Islam and Islamic nations.

## JWU opens social centre in refugee camp

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordanian Women's Union (JWU) Tuesday announced the opening of a "permanent resident" centre in the Baqaa Refugee Camp, which will provide social, psychological and legal counsel for women and children in the camp.

added, cost JD23,000 and will offer services such as projects facilitating job opportunities for unemployed women, a kindergarten, beauty saloon, and fitness centre.

added her voice to Ms. Darbashi saying "there should be men members to support women's cause."

told the Jordan Times. He added that the Canadian Embassy is optimistic about the new centre, saying "we are very enthused to see how its programmes will develop and we hope to continue our support for such projects in the future."

Christian Association. Ajoni Hadad, a member of the JWU addressed the assembly, stating that the union, established 50 years ago, has six other branches in the Kingdom offering social, psychological, and legal counsel.

## RSCN seeks reassurance on future of wadis

By Francesca Ciriaci  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Following the debate raised by the announcement of a pre-feasibility study for the construction of three dams in the Jordan Valley, at Wadi Hassa (Tannour dam), Wadi Waleh and Wadi Mujeb respectively, the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) is seeking to reassure environmentalists and nature-lovers that the conservation and preservation of the natural richness of the three wadis will be considered a priority.

"First of all, we do not even have a project yet, [for the construction of a dam in Wadi Mujeb]," Secretary General of the JVA Dureid Mahasneh told the Jordan Times, "and, secondly, any study, project or action will be carried on in close coordination with the RSCN."

of land-types, flora and fauna, Wadi Mujeb was declared a nature reserve in 1986 and established as such in 1988.

said that "without flowing water, the scenic beauty of the gorge will be greatly reduced, minimising its attraction for tourists."

to grow yet more water-dependent crops in very dry areas, such as Ghor Safi.

In an attempt to allay fears that the construction of the dams will irretrievably damage the eco-system of Wadi Mujeb, widely considered as the most spectacular feature along the Dead Sea shore and, therefore, an important tourist attraction, the JVA promised that any decision related to the area will be taken hand in hand with the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN).

The beginning of a feasibility study on the project involving the construction of the Tannour, Waleh and Mujeb dams was announced by the JVA on Aug. 12, and the RSCN promptly responded warning against the likely negative impacts of the dams on the hydrological and environmental conditions of the Mujeb River system.

Stressing that during spring and early summer this year there were approximately 400 cars parked around the wadi mouth every Friday and about 40 tourist coaches per day visiting the gorge and the river, Mr. Johnson

In a recently issued fact sheet, the RSCN questioned whether the implications for tourism and loss of tourism revenue had been adequately assessed by the JVA and warned against the futility of using vital fresh water

"This is a very small country. Wadi Mujeb, together with Dana and Wadi Rum, is the most important destination for eco-tourism: scrubbing it out of the map, is like taking away 30 per cent of Jordan's eco-tourism potential," Mr. Younis summed up.

## Minister discusses importing Palestinian olive oil

BAQAA (Petra) — Minister of Supply Munir Sobar Tuesday confirmed that the government is maintaining contacts with the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) regarding importation of olive oil from Palestine to local markets.

During a visit to the Balqaa governorate, where he toured local markets and shopping centres, Mr. Sobar said that the local markets lack sufficient stores of olive oil and that the ministry has failed to provide the required quantities for local consumption despite its search in other Arab and foreign countries.

The olive season is imminent and the minister expressed reasonable expectation that local and Palestinian harvests will supply sufficient quantities for local markets.

However, the ministry has made plans for storing sufficient quantities of olive oil as part of its food strategy, he said expressing his regret that no such plan was implemented for the previous olive season.

Mr. Sobar toured the Baqaa refugee camp Ain Al Basha and attended to remarks by customers and merchants about the current market situation.

### WHAT'S GOING ON

#### MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

- \* Violin duet by Firas Hattar and As'ad Ali at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh at 7:30 p.m.

#### FILM

- \* "Truly Madly Deeply" at the British Council at 7:00 p.m.

#### PANEL PRESENTATION

- \* Media forum topic is "To What Extent Do Press Articles and Opinion Polls Reflect Public Opinion?" (Arabic — with the participation of panelists: Sultan Hattab, Hani Hourani and Tony Sabbagh) at the American Centre's auditorium at 5:00 p.m.

#### LECTURE

- \* "Meeting and Dialogue on the Literature of Children" by Mona Hanning at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman at 6:30 p.m.

#### EXHIBITIONS

- \* Plastic art by Iraqi artist Widad Ayal at the Royal Cultural Centre, until Sept. 26.
- \* Works by Mohammad Al Jalous entitled "Pathetic" at Baladna Art Gallery, at Gardens Street (Tel. 687598), until Oct. 3.
- \* Works by Shereen Odeh at the Jordan Plastic Art Association, Jabal Weibdeh (Tel. 623297), until Oct. 1.
- \* "Water colours works by Salam Kanaan and Pia Hayes at Alia Art Gallery, Jabal Amman (Tel. 639303), until Sept. 26.
- \* "Summer '96" exhibition at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh (including ceramic sculptures by Vera Tammari, photographs of Jordanian villages by Ammar Kham-mash, works by contemporary Arab artists, a mosaic exhibition, and others), until Oct. 8.

For Information Only

## Syndicated Loan U.S. (15) Million

For

### Jordan Cement Factories Co.

Manager

### Arab Bank

Participants

- Arab Bank
- The Housing Bank
- British Bank of The Middle East
- Jordan Investment and Finance Bank
- Jordan National Bank
- Cairo Amman Bank
- Jordan Export and Finance Bank

Agent

### Arab Bank

September, 1996



## Pakistani army patrols Multan to maintain calm after massacre

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — In armoured personnel carriers and on foot, the army Tuesday patrolled the southern Punjab city of Multan a day after gunmen massacred 21 worshippers in a mosque, witnesses said.

In the eastern suburb where the killing took place shops were closed and the army had imposed an area wide curfew to curb the violence.

On Monday several men with machine guns stormed into the ancient Majid Al Khair Mosque and opened fire on a congregation of Sunni Muslim worshippers saying their morning prayers.

Devout Muslims pray five times a day in this Islamic nation of 140 million people, most of whom are Sunni Muslims.

No one has taken respon-

sibility for the slaughter but many in Multan were blaming militant members of the Shi'ite Muslim community, a rival sect.

Following the shooting a Shi'ite mosque was burned and a Shi'ite leader was killed as he prepared for his evening prayers in Bawalpur, about 80 kilometres away, said witnesses and newspaper reports.

On Sunday another prominent Shi'ite leader had been killed also in Bawalpur. Many feared the Multan killings were to avenge that death.

Multan, one of the hottest places on Earth, is religiously significant to both Sunni and Shi'ite Muslims.

Surrounded by shrines of saints belonging to both sects hundreds of thousands of Muslims from throughout the country annually

make pilgrimages to Multan, about 450 kilometres south of Islamabad.

The city landscape is dotted with mosques belonging to both Sunnis and Shi'ite Muslims.

On Tuesday there were heavy contingents of well-armed police outside most mosques and worshippers were being searched for weapons.

Loudspeakers atop mosques frequented by militant groups urged worshippers to collect their arms and prepare for battle.

Parliamentary Speaker Yousaf Raza Gillani said he would ask the government to ban sectarian parties in Pakistan.

On Monday a mob attacked Mr. Gillani when he arrived at the site of the massacre, ripping at his clothes and hurling stones,

witnesses said. Several soldiers moved in and hustled him away.

Mr. Gillani, the member of parliament from Multan, had come to offer comfort to the victims.

While the majority of Pakistan's Sunni and Shi'ite Muslims get along, there has been an increase in recent years in the number of militant groups belonging to both sects.

They are well armed. In some areas of the country their arsenals include rocket launchers, heavy artillery and almost everyone has a huge stockpile of machine guns.

Earlier this month in a remote corner of northwestern Pakistan more than 100 people were killed when Sunni and Shi'ite Muslims clashed in a ferocious week-long battle.



Pakistani Muslims offer a funeral prayer for some of the victims of a shooting at a Multan mosque Monday. At least 24 people were killed and 50 injured when unidentified gunmen opened fire on the worshippers, offering their dawn prayer (Reuters photo)

## U.S., Russia and Norway to sign vital Arctic treaty

BERGEN, Norway (R) — The United States, Russia and Norway will sign a milestone agreement Thursday for dealing jointly with nuclear and other waste stored or dumped in the Arctic by the former Communist superpower's military.

The Arctic Military and Environmental Cooperation (AMEC) pact will be signed by U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry, Russian Defence Minister Igor Rodionov and Norwegian counterpart Joergen Kosmo at the end of an informal NATO meeting in the Norwegian west coast city of Bergen.

Mr. Rodionov will attend a special session at the meeting, which opens Wednesday. The 16 NATO defence ministers will also discuss what follow-on force to keep in Bosnia after the current mission's mandate ends in late December.

NATO member Norway has pushed for the AMEC agreement in an effort to put more international focus on radioactive waste piling up on its doorstep — Russia's Kola peninsula, home to giant nuclear submarine

bases. The Scandinavian country shares a 200 kilometre Arctic frontier with Russia.

"We have been working on this agreement for a year and a half," Mr. Kosmo said. "It is another step in the continuing and emerging cooperation between the three countries in cleaning up the Arctic military environment."

The Kola bases form an environmental rather than a military threat to Norway now that the cold war is over. Cleaning up radioactive pollution on the peninsula has become a major issue in Norwegian foreign policy.

The agreement also deals with the dumping of whole nuclear reactors in the sea during the communist era.

Although no final plans have been made, the signing is expected to be followed in the near future by a meeting with senior Russian military officials in Murmansk, the main city on the peninsula.

The Norwegian Defence Ministry was tightlipped about the practical implications of the pact, but U.S. officials said in Washing-

ton last week the agreement would address radioactive waste handling and oil pollution.

"The principal purpose of the AMEC agreement is to change the environmental conditions in the Russian Arctic region," a U.S. official said.

Six projects, four of which are about radioactive waste, will be formally endorsed by the ministers in Bergen.

The projects include the joint development of prototype containers for interim storage of spent nuclear fuel and work on technology for treatment of liquid as well as solid radioactive waste.

A plant for treating low-level liquid radioactive waste is already being built in Murmansk under a joint effort initiated earlier by Norway, Russia and the United States.

Norwegian experts say storage sites on the Kola peninsula for spent fuel and other nuclear waste from vessels scrapped under disarmament agreements are inadequate and radiation could leak into the Barents Sea.

## Mayor orders Megawati to close office

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesian officials have ordered ousted minority party leader Megawati Sukarnoputri to close her party office two weeks after it was opened in defiance of the military.

East Jakarta Mayor Sudarsono said in the notice of closure, a copy of which was obtained by Reuters, that he had taken the action after receiving letters from local residents that the use of the building was not in accordance with regulations.

"Megawati Sukarnoputri and (Secretary-General) Alexander Litay are ordered to soon stop activities of a secretariat of the Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI) Megawati Faction within 72 hours of the receipt of this letter," said the order, dated Sept. 23.

Party officials said the letter was received about 7 p.m. Monday.

"If you do not in the near future comply with this order, the government of Jakarta represented by mayor of East Jakarta will imple-

ment the closure and all risks will be borne by you," the letter said.

Mr. Litay told Reuters: "We are still discussing our next step."

The military has said Ms. Megawati and her followers do not have the right to carry out political activities and that the opening of a headquarters was unacceptable.

Ms. Megawati's supporters opened the office on Sept. 9 after they were evicted from the PDI central headquarters by police.

## U.K. police raid homes in Ireland after arms find

LONDON (R) — Police raided homes in Ireland Tuesday as Irish and British authorities sought to capitalise on the biggest seizure of IRA arms and explosives ever made on the British mainland.

The capture Monday of 10 tonnes of explosives after dawn raids in London and the arrest of five men dealt a major blow to Irish Republican Army (IRA) morale and torpedoed any chance of a new ceasefire.

Police in Ireland swooped on several homes near the border with British-ruled Northern Ireland early Tuesday but no arrests were made.

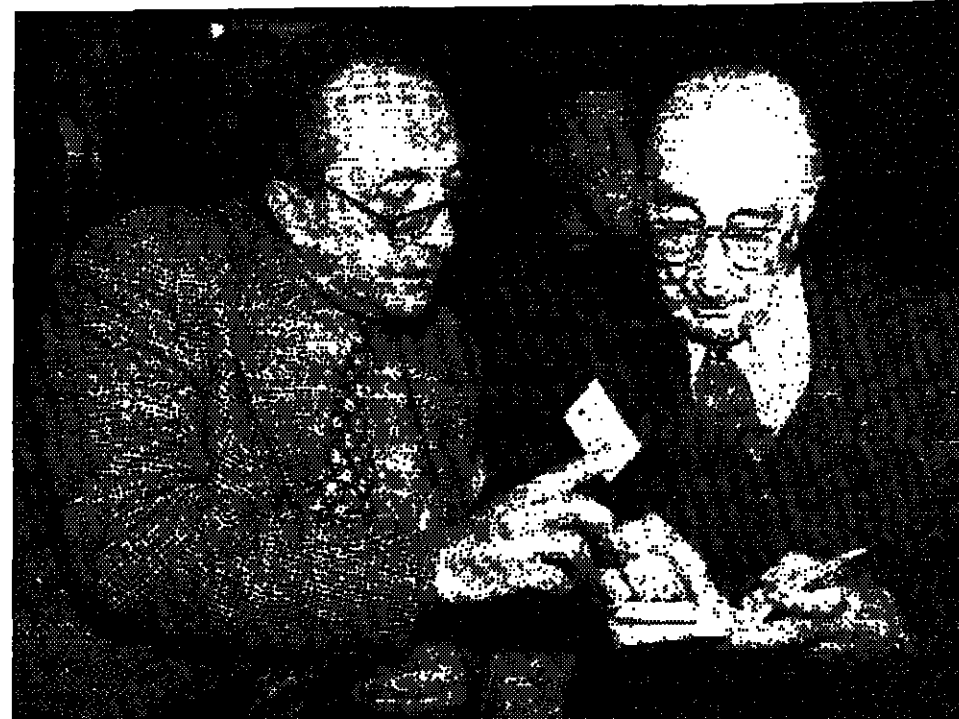
One of the five men being questioned by police in London is a young Northern Irish British Airways engineer working at Britain's Gatwick Airport.

Transport officials said they would be reviewing already strict vetting procedures but the airline insisted the arrest in no way suggested the airport was the target for an attack.

A sixth man, who was shot dead by police during Monday's raids, was believed to have been born in Britain of Irish parents.

The suspects can be detained for a week without charge under anti-terrorism laws brought in to combat the IRA's guerrilla battle to oust Britain from Northern Ireland.

Police, jubilant that their cooperation with Secret Service agents paid such rich dividends, said they believed the IRA were within hours of launching lorry bomb attacks and targeting high profile public figures.



Professor Renat Akchurin (left), tipped to be the Russian surgeon chosen to operate on President Boris Yeltsin, talks to U.S. cardiologist Michael DeBakey during the international conference that opened in Moscow Tuesday. Dr. DeBakey will join the team of doctors advising Mr. Yeltsin on heart bypass surgery (Reuters photo)

## Yeltsin meets Chernomyrdin in hospital ahead of operation

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin, waiting for doctors to decide when and whether to operate on his heart, met Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin Tuesday in the hospital where he has spent the last 10 days.

Interfax News Agency, quoting Kremlin sources, said the two men met for about an hour, discussing several issues including regional elections and the situation in breakaway Chechnya.

Six Russian soldiers were killed near the rebel region Tuesday when their armoured personnel carrier went over a mine but a shaky truce agreed last month has generally held.

Mr. Yeltsin has already handed over some powers to Mr. Chernomyrdin before his planned heart operation and has said that the prime minister will take over during the surgery. Doctors are due to meet Wednesday to decide when to operate.

But the operation, initially billed as simple heart bypass surgery, has been overshadowed by other doubts about the president's overall state of health after he moved to the elite Central Clinical Hospital.

Top Russian surgeon Renat Akchurin suggested at the weekend that the operation might be delayed for six to eight weeks — or even cancelled. Dr. Akchurin, attending a medical conference in Moscow Tuesday, is expected to lead the operation.

Dr. Akchurin also said Mr. Yeltsin had probably had a heart attack during the presidential election campaign.

Russian Communists, defeated by Mr. Yeltsin in the July election, accused the president and his team of misleading the electorate by concealing information.

"(Concealing the heart attack) amounts to falsification. The elections were not fair," Communist Party leader Gennady Zyuganov told Reuters at the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly in Strasbourg.

Mr. Yeltsin, who disappeared from the public eye during the two rounds of Russia's presidential election, admitted over a month later he needed an operation on his heart. His absence has created a power vacuum in Russia and top politicians have been jockeying for position in a possible race to succeed him.

But tight lips in the Kremlin — press officers often answer questions with the stock phrase "we have no information on that" — has focused attention on the international medical conference in Moscow's exclusive President Hotel.

The doctors' get-together has turned into a media circus where reporters and television crews almost outnumber doctors.

German heart surgeon Hans Borst said he thought the experts would happily advise Mr. Yeltsin.

"Logically the Russians should use the expertise presented by a group of at least 12 foreigners who are very well versed in this type of surgery," he said. "All of us are rather curious about what is going to be the next step."

Participants at the conference include pioneering U.S. surgeon Michael DeBakey, who has already said he will join the team of doctors advising Mr. Yeltsin.

Dr. DeBakey, who works in Houston and is 23 years older than his new patient, conducted the world's first successful heart bypass operation. "I'm always optimistic," he said when he arrived in Moscow Monday.

Mr. Yeltsin's prolonged stay in hospital has sent shudders through Russia's embryonic financial markets.

Russian shares fell an average of three per cent Monday and prices tumbled further Tuesday.

"It's really crashing, moving down with even some panic among brokers," said Alexei Genkin, sales desk manager at Alfa-Capital.

## 12th person held in Belgian child case

BRUSSELS (R) — Belgian police made their twelfth arrest Tuesday in the scandal of child abduction, sexual abuse and murder that has shaken the country to the core.

Marleen De Cockere was charged with criminal association and drug trafficking. Belga news agency said she was also implicated in the illegal imprisonment of children.

Ms. De Cockere is the companion of Jean-Michel Nihoul who has been under arrest since Aug. 16 on charges of criminal association.

Mr. Nihoul, whose lawyer admits he takes part in orgies with consenting adults, has since also been charged with abduction.

Belgium has been in shock since Aug. 16 when the bodies of eight-year-olds Julie Lejeune and Melissa Russo were found on a property owned by convicted child rapist Marc Dutroux in Sars-La-Buissiere near the southern city of Charleroi.

The two children had been kidnapped by associates of Mr. Dutroux 14 months earlier. He said they starved to death around the start of this year.

The discovery followed the rescue of two other girls — Laetitia Delhez, 14, and Sabine Dardenne, 12, — from a secret dungeon in another house owned by Mr. Dutroux in Marcinelle, a suburb of Charleroi.

On Friday Belgian Television showed the first pictures of the one metre by three metres dungeon in which Julie and Melissa died, hidden behind a heavy, soundproofed steel and concrete door set in the wall in the basement.

Two more teenagers — Eefje Lambrechts and An Marchal — were found dead two and a half weeks later at the home of Frenchman Bernard Weinstein, an accomplice whom Mr. Dutroux admits killing.

Belgian Television said several people had been questioned Tuesday.

Mr. Dutroux, who was also involved in an international car theft ring, and accomplice Michel Lelievre have been charged with abduction and illegal imprisonment. Mr. Dutroux's second wife Michelle Martin has been charged as an accomplice.

Three other people have been charged in relation to the child sex and pornography ring — including Annie Bouty, a former companion of Mr. Nihoul.

Four others — including Georges Zicot, a chief detective specialising in tackling car

theft — have been charged in connection with the stolen cars.

All but two of the 12 are being held in custody while investigations continue.

Meanwhile, European Union (EU) justice ministers gather Thursday to discuss ways of stamping out cross-border child sex "trafficking" following the revelations of child murder, prostitution and pornography in Belgium.

Irish Prime Minister John Bruton, who will host the conference in Dublin, said Ireland would urge ministers to extend the mandate of the EU's embryonic police agency Europol, based in the Dutch capital The Hague, so that it can deal with the child sex trade.

EU Justice Commissioner Anita Gradin told Reuters she would urge EU governments to urgently ratify the convention which will put Europol fully to work.

"Everyone should go home and ratify the Europol convention. If we want to get hold of these gangs who are...abducting children then you need a Europol that's effective," she said.

Mr. Bruton said there was an urgent need to act.

"Recent events brought home to us all the obscene and shocking crimes perpetrated against children on our continent," Mr. Bruton, whose country is current EU president, recently told the European Parliament.

EU members, jealous of their own police and judicial systems, have previously been reluctant to extend the EU's competence to lead the fight against cross-border crime, which also involves drugs, cars and nuclear materials and money laundering.

But EU officials hope that the EU will be so shaken that national governments will now put aside their reservations.

Until the Europol Convention, previously delayed by a row between Britain and its EU partners over the jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice, is ratified Europol cannot start vital work analysing data provided by various police forces.

Ms. Gradin said she would also urge the increased practice in member states of trying at home the many Europeans who go overseas as "sex tourists" to indulge in sex with children.

Belgium has said it will push for a Europe-wide solution to combat use by paedophile and pornography networks to advertise their wares on the Internet, which is little policed and where anonymity can be assured.

## Bardot says Le Pen is a lovely man

PARIS (AFP) — Former sex kitten Brigitte Bardot says French extreme right leader Jean-Marie Le Pen is a "lovely, intelligent man," but calls him a cold-hearted monster with steely blue eyes the former puppeteer heart throb who abruptly left the silver screen 23 years ago to become an animal rights campaigner, revealed her far-right political views, but also details of her sex life in the conservative daily Le Figaro Monday, which published extracts from her memoirs Initials B.B. (Initials B.B.). The memoirs were published simultaneously Monday in France, Belgium and Germany. According to extracts in Le Figaro, Bardot fell in love with her screen partners as soon as she shot the first love scene. Currently married to Bernard D'Oormale, whose opinions match those of Le Pen, 61-year-old Bardot, whose well-conserved figure also graces the pages of the illustrated weekly Paris-Match, said she "fully" shares Le Pen's views on the "terrifying immigration" into France, but not his anti-abortion stance.

Bardot blasted French film stars Alain Delon and Catherine Deneuve. Of Delon, she wrote: "Alain is a cold-hearted person, extremely self-centred, who to warm himself up has found nothing better than to appear in fur advertisements. Just like Sophia Loren. He gets on my nerves always wanting to show off his blue eyes."

She also attacked Deneuve, who once lived with one of her former husbands, Roger Vadim. Bardot recounts other notches on her bedpost starting with Vadim who directed Bardot in her first major hit "Et Dieu Crea La Femme" (And God Created Woman), or the late iconoclastic singer Serge Gainsbourg who had Bardot record one of her most successful hits, "Harley Davidson. Other people she says shared her bed were actors Sami Frey, Jean-Louis Trintignant and Jacques Charrier, by whom she had a baby. German playboy Gunther Sachs and singer Sacha Distel.

Mr. Yeltsin, who disappeared from the public eye during the two rounds of Russia's presidential election, admitted over a month later he needed an operation on his heart. His absence has created a power vacuum in Russia and top politicians have been jockeying for position in a possible race to succeed him.

But tight lips in the Kremlin — press officers often answer questions with the stock phrase "we have no information on that" — has focused attention on the international medical conference in Moscow's exclusive President Hotel.

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U.S. Army General John Tilelli (left), commander-in-chief of U.S. Forces in Korea, talks to South Korean Defence Minister Lee Yang-Ho while U.S. Ambassador to Korea Richard Lantry (right) stands next to South Korean Foreign Minister Gong Ro-Myung, prior to a breakfast meeting in Seoul Tuesday (Reuters photo)

## S. Korea's Kim reviews policy toward North

SEOUL (R) — South Korean President Kim Young-Sam is considering policy changes toward North Korea after a Northern submarine dropped heavily-armed agents on a southern beach, Seoul media said Tuesday.

"I'm seriously considering reviewing our policy toward North Korea," leading newspaper Dong-A Ilbo quoted Mr. Kim as telling a group of Japanese political editors.

Presidential spokesmen were not available to comment.

In its Wednesday's edition, Dong-A said Mr. Kim did not go into details of what kind of steps the government would take, but said Mr. Kim gave a clear indication of a wide-ranging shift in the government's position toward the Communist North.

An estimated 26 North Korean agents came ashore on an east coast beach near the city of Kangnung last

Wednesday. Nine have been killed by South Korean security forces. 11 were found shot dead — possibly murdered by their own colleagues — one was captured and five are thought to be still on the run.

Mr. Kim denounced the infiltration as an act of "military provocation," saying it was not a simple spy case.

After asking the Japanese reporters what would happen if a submarine sneaked into Osaka or an area near

Washington, Mr. Kim was quoted as saying: "The United States and Japan would have probably started a war against the aggressor. The country should have disappeared as the United States would have launched an attack."

Breaking a week-long silence, the North Monday demanded the return of the vessel and crew as the submarine stranded off South Korea last week due to engine failure.

But Kim flatly dismissed the North Korean claim as a lie, citing the fact that North Korean agents wore South Korean clothes and shoes.

He added that the North Korean submarine could not drift to the South due to the North-bound ocean current in the east sea.

"The intrusion was made deliberately from the beginning," Dong-A quoted Mr. Kim as saying.

In an angry response to an incursion by the North Korean submarine, South Korea's Defence Ministry said Tuesday that Seoul would seek to restart war games with the United States.

The annual Team Spirit military exercises were dropped last year as part of a landmark deal between the United States and North Korea under which Pyongyang agreed to scrap its suspected nuclear weapons programme.



South Korean men in Seoul inspect a model of the submarine Tuesday which was grounded on the South Korean east coast last week. The submarine, and the subsequent infiltration of around 26 North Korean agents and crew members, has South Korea planning to restart the Team Spirit war games with the United States (Reuters photo)

## China warns Japan not to provoke new incidents

BEIJING (R) — China Tuesday urged Japan to be rational and not to provoke any new incidents in a row over a group of disputed islands in the East China Sea.

"The Japanese side has a responsibility to guarantee that it will not provoke any new incidents in the future," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Shen Guofang told a news briefing.

"The Japanese side should adopt measures to immediately halt activities infringing on China's (claim of) sovereignty" over the islands — known as the Diaoyu in Chinese and the Senkaku in Japanese, Mr. Shen said.

"These...are very important," Mr. Shen said, adding that the islands were an inseparable part of China.

The dispute over the uninhabited islands flared up this month when Japanese rightists moved to buttress Tokyo's claim over them by repairing a makeshift alu-

minium lighthouse on one of the islands. The structure had been damaged by a typhoon last month.

On Monday, Japanese patrol ships repulsed a flotilla of activists from rival claimant Taiwan and the British colony of Hong Kong, which reverts to Beijing rule in mid-1997. The activists tried to land on the islands to defy Tokyo's claim of sovereignty.

Beijing and Taipei, rivals since the end of the Chinese civil war in 1949, agree the Diaoyu have been China's for centuries and dispute Tokyo's claim, which dates to 1895 when Japan defeated imperial China in a war and seized the Diaoyu.

The Taiwan and Hong Kong activists had vowed to remove the lighthouse, but 17 Japanese vessels backed by a helicopter thwarted eight landing attempts by placing themselves between seven fishing boats carrying the activists and the islands.

Mr. Shen declined to speculate on how Beijing might react if Taiwan or Hong Kong residents were injured or killed while trying to approach the islands. "We do not wish for this to happen," he said.

In New York, Japan's chief Foreign Ministry spokesman Hidehiro Hamada said Monday that the issue was not open for discussion ahead of a meeting between foreign ministers of the two countries.

"The Japanese position has been made quite clear. The islands have been historically and legally an integral part of Japan... From the Japanese side, there is no dispute to discuss," Mr. Hamada said.

"The Chinese side knows that position... We hope this will not jeopardise friendly relations with China," he said.

Mr. Shen said China had taken notice that Tokyo had repeatedly stressed the

importance it attached to Sino-Japanese relations.

"They (Japanese) said they do not want to see Sino-Japanese relations harmed... We hope to see more action by the Japanese side," Mr. Shen said.

Asked if joint military exercises China conducted this month were aimed at Japan, Mr. Shen said it was "normal" for China to conduct war games.

The Shenyang Military Zone conducted the exercises at an undisclosed location on Sept. 13-14, with the army, navy and air force seizing and defending offshore islands, the Liberation Army Daily reported Sunday.

Tokyo has called for calm in the face of growing anti-Japanese sentiment. Some Hong Kong legislators and Chinese citizens have demanded Beijing send warships to the islands.

## U.N. General Assembly opens with differences over Ghali, finances

UNITED NATIONS (AP)

— World leaders echoed U.S. calls Monday to redesign the United Nations but said reform must go beyond budget and staff cuts to make the organisation more responsive to challenges of the modern world.

During the opening day of the annual three-week General Assembly debate, several speakers indirectly chided Washington for withholding payments to the organisation to push for reform.

"We must press on with reform," Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland said. "But we cannot accept in-timidation. Withholding legally assessed contributions amounts to just that."

Without mentioning the United States by name, Prime Minister Julius Chan of Papua New Guinea said: "Some of the strongest criticism" of the United Nations "comes from states which are the slowest in paying their dues."

Washington accounts for about half the \$2.9 billion owed the organisation by member states. The Republican-controlled Congress has withheld payments to press for reform.

Brazilian Foreign Minister Luiz Felipe Lampreia said the United Nations must rid itself "of its image as a morose and lethargic body." But he added that to "stifle the U.N. little by little by depriving it of the means to perform its functions is no way to secure greater administrative efficiency."

President Clinton will address the 185-member General Assembly Tuesday and join leaders of other nuclear powers in signing a treaty to ban nuclear test explosions worldwide.

During the opening day, speakers took the opportunity to promote their own national agendas. Colombian President Ernesto Samper proposed a global strategy to fight narcotics.

Mr. Samper, who has been accused of financing his 1994 election with \$6 million in drug contributions, appeared after the embarrassing discovery of heroin aboard his jet in Bogota.

Iran's Foreign Minister Ali-Akbar Velayati sharply criticised the United States for recently enacted laws which punish foreign companies for trading with Iran and Cuba.

Argentina's Foreign Mi-

nister Guido Di Tella called for talks with Britain over the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands, which the British recaptured from Argentina in 1982.

Others spoke of the need to promote development in Africa and protect small island states from the effects of global warming.

But the focus is on reform and the future of Secretary-General Boutros Ghali. The United States opposes a second term for the 73-year-old Egyptian.

The United States has pushed for reductions in the U.N. budget and personnel.

But other countries are seeking additional reforms, including expansion of the Security Council from its current 15 members to include permanent representatives from Asia, Africa and Latin America.

The United States, Norway and others support adding Germany and Japan as permanent members. Peruvian Foreign Minister Francisco Tudela proposed establishment of new social and economic councils to promote "social stability."

Ms. Brundtland said Norway would establish a special fund and contribute \$1 million annually to pay for

sending diplomats and experts to trouble spots.

She also called for changes in the rate of assessment for member states, something the United States also supports. Washington pays 25 per cent of the U.N. budget — the largest single assessment — and has asked for a reduction so others can shoulder a greater burden.

Linked to the financial crisis is the issue of Dr. Ghali. The United States is threatening to veto his reappointment when his five-year term expires Dec. 31.

U.S. diplomats have said privately that Congress would be more willing to pay the U.N. bills if Dr. Ghali were gone.

But U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright has failed to muster widespread opposition to Dr. Ghali, even among countries which have complained about aspects of his performance.

The Security Council is expected to meet after the U.S. election to select a candidate for ratification by the General Assembly.

Heads of government and foreign ministers are expected to discuss the issue in private talks during the debate.

## Chechen separatist leader urges reconciliation

MOSCOW (R) — Chechen separatist leader Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, struggling to cement a shaky peace in his breakaway region, has urged his people to show tolerance and to forgive their enemies.

ITAR-TASS, news agency said Tuesday. However Mr. Yandarbiyev's postponement of a planned visit to Moscow and the death of six Russian soldiers in a landmine explosion Tuesday cast a shadow over his efforts to keep the peace process on track and provoked an angry Russian reaction.

"It is practically impossible to build up an independent state in Chechnya without mutual forgiveness and concord," TASS quoted Mr. Yandarbiyev as telling Chechen Television Monday.

He said Chechens should draw confidence from the peace deal, clinched with the Kremlin's security supremo Alexander Lebed on Aug. 31, return to their homes and start preparing for winter.

Under the deal all Chechens who collaborated with the pro-Moscow administration in the capital Grozny have been amnestied and should not be persecuted, Mr. Yandarbiyev said.

However he warned his political opponents in the mountainous southern region that he would deal ruthlessly with any attempts to undermine the peace accord.

His words came shortly before a landmine killed six Russian Interior Ministry soldiers travelling in an armoured personnel carrier in Dagestan, an ethnically mixed Russian region neighbouring Chechnya, TASS reported.

Russia reacted swiftly to the incident. "This is a crude provocation, aimed at the destabilisation of the atmosphere in the region," the commander of Russian forces in Chechnya, General Vyacheslav Tikhomirov, told Interfax News Agency.

TASS described the situation in Chechnya as tough and said one Russian soldier had been killed there Monday by a sniper.

Tens of thousands of people have been killed in Chechnya since President Boris Yeltsin, who is now in hospital preparing for heart surgery, sent troops there in December 1994 to quell an independence bid.

## South African police quell ethnic clashes at gold mines

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South African police fired tear gas and rubber bullets Tuesday to quell a new outbreak of ethnic clashes between gold miners in which 21 miners have been killed in the past three days, a spokesman said.

The police spokesman told reporters three miners from the gold mining area around Klerksdorp, 160 kilometres southwest of Johannesburg, were killed in fighting overnight between members of the Xhosa and Sotho tribes.

He said the toll since Saturday midnight stood at 21 dead and 38 seriously injured. In the latest clashes early Sunday, seven miners

were killed when assailants blew up their homes with blasting explosives.

"This morning the two groups attacked each other again and police fired tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse them. The situation is quiet now," the spokesman said.

It is not clear what sparked the Klerksdorp fighting, but newspapers have reported that one group of miners had decided to avenge a colleague who was killed in a fight over a woman.

The clashes have centred on the Buffelsfontein Gold Mining Company Ltd. BPEL, owned by Marginal Mines specialist Rand-

gold Exploration Co. Ltd. RGNJ, which recently bought it from Gencor Ltd. GMFJ.

In July and August about 30 miners were killed in ethnic clashes on four other mines, run by gold fields of South Africa Ltd. GLDFJ.

President Nelson Mandela has appointed a judicial inquiry into the fighting.

Migrant labourers at most of the country's mines are accommodated in hostels segregated by ethnic group. Union leaders say the system is a legacy of apartheid but mine managers say the workers do not want to be forced to share housing with members of other tribes.

## Major 'furious' with Clarke on Europe

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister John Major was reported to be furious with Finance Minister Kenneth Clarke Tuesday after remarks by Mr. Clarke re-

opened a chasm over Europe that threatens irreparably to split the Conservative Party.

Senior government sources were quoted by several newspapers as saying Mr. Major was "very angry" at Mr. Clarke's overt support for a single European currency.

Mr. Major's Downing Street office said it had no comment on the reports. But senior officials studiously avoided a defence of Mr. Clarke's remarks, saying only: "The prime minister has made clear that we have a settled policy which stands."

The government's official policy, which Mr. Major insisted to try and bridge the yawning divide between pro-Europeans and anti-Europeans in his party, is that it will decide what is in Britain's interests after the single currency is launched.

In an interview during a weekend meeting of European finance ministers in Ireland, Chancellor of the Exchequer Mr. Clarke said

it would be "pathetic" for Britain to wait and see how a European single currency developed before deciding whether to join.

"That would be the worst policy of all of the British doing their traditional business of not be able to make their minds up and then joining late," said Mr. Clarke, seen as the most likely successor to Mr. Major from the party's left wing.

Mr. Clarke's remarks provoked strong pressure on Mr. Major from anti-Europeans to ditch Mr. Clarke, the most pro-European member of the cabinet, before an election due within eight months.

Mr. Major negotiated an "opt-out" from monetary union when negotiating the Maastricht Treaty in 1991. Anti-Europeans want him to rule out entry into a single currency in the life of the next five-year parliament and want that pledge to be a commitment in the election manifesto.

Getting rid of Mr. Clarke would be an extremely risky manoeuvre.

Markets, who see him as a "safe pair of hands" and praise his careful manage-

## Bangladesh has highest lead pollution in world

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh has the highest lead pollution in the world for part of the year, scientists at the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC) said Tuesday.

A 17-month study by BAEC scientists detected 463 nanogramme (billionth of a gramme) of lead, per metre of air over Dhaka during the dry months (November-January).

"Bangladesh has the highest lead pollution in world," the figure appears to be the world's highest against 383 nanogramme in Mexico City and 360 in Bombay," said BAEC's chief scientific officer, Dr. Mohammad Khaliquzzaman, who led the survey.

"It's alarming. Higher levels of lead are dangerous for child health," said Dr. Khaliquzzaman, who blamed the problem largely on the use of leaded fuel.

In Bangladesh, all vehicles use leaded fuel because the country's only refinery is not able to produce lead-free fuel, he said.

However, he said, the concentration of lead drops as the rainfall increases after the dry season.

"It comes down to 253 nanogrammes during the medium rainfall period (February-May) and to 160 nanogrammes in the peak rainy months (June-August)," Dr. Khaliquzzaman told Reuters.

BAEC scientists said lead can penetrate into the lungs and subsequently into the blood. The heavy metal can also cause intellectual impairment in children.

"Lead can severely impair intelligence of children, can cause respiratory problems and anaemia," said Dr. Mizanur Rahman, a paediatrician in Dhaka's Post Graduate Medicine and Research Hospital.

Scientists and public health officials are also battling deadly water pollution in parts of Bangladesh.

Up to 15 people have died in recent months in the country's southern districts due to poisoning by the high content of arsenic in sub-soil water.

Authorities have hurriedly sealed many wells after water they pumped out tested "arsenic positive," doctors in the worst-affected districts said.

## Juppe calls parliament confidence vote

DEAUVILLE, France (R) — French Prime Minister Alain Juppe, seeking to unite a fractious centre-right coalition, said Tuesday he would seek a vote of confidence in his economic policy when parliament reconvenes next week after the summer recess.

To renew the contract that unites us for this legislative period, especially in the eyes of the French public, I will seek a confidence vote in the National Assembly after a policy statement at the start of the new session," Mr. Juppe told law-

makers of the Union for French Democracy (UDF) junior coalition party.

The session begins next Tuesday. Since the coalition holds four-fifths of the seats in the 577-member assembly, the outcome of the vote is a foregone conclusion.

However Mr. Juppe's tactic appeared aimed at outflanking critics of austerity in his own ranks, led by former Gaullist Interior Minister Charles Pasqua, a leading opponent of a single European currency, and outspoken UDF free-marketeer Alain Madelin.

Several coalition politicians have criticised his planned income tax cuts as inadequate and sought a change in economic priorities to boost sluggish growth and combat record 12.5 per cent unemployment.

By calling a confidence motion, Mr. Juppe is effectively challenging his critics to put up or shut up.

"Our mortal enemy is division and dissent...The antidote to division and dissent is unity," he declared.



## Jordan Times

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### Initiative worth pursuing

WITH TENSION between Washington and Baghdad easing considerably in the past few days and the likelihood of a military confrontation effectively receding, the Iraqi decision to establish a committee to trace some 600 missing Kuwaitis could offer a new window of opportunity for better Iraqi-Kuwaiti relations. Kuwait has already "welcomed" the Iraqi initiative which promises to address an important issue before the United Nations would consider lifting permanently the sanctions imposed against Iraq in the wake of its invasion and occupation of Kuwait in 1990. While it is premature to tell whether this belated Iraqi move would end up being the much-awaited breakthrough in the Kuwaiti-Iraqi bilateral relations, it cannot be ignored as an important step that could break the stalemate in ties between the two countries.

There is in place a joint Kuwaiti-Iraqi committee that meets regularly to discuss the fate of missing Kuwaitis and Iraqis but not much has been accomplished thus far due to the intransigence of Iraq and its refusal to recognise even the existence of the problem. Baghdad had repeatedly denied any knowledge about the whereabouts of the missing Kuwaitis, a stance that had led to further exacerbation of relations between the two neighbouring Arab countries. Now it seems Iraq is poised to talk business with Kuwait on this issue, a development that promises to eventually change the political climate in the region.

Of course more is required of Iraq before its rehabilitation can even begin. Above all the Iraqi regime's obligations towards its own people remain more pressing than its duties towards the international community. As long as the Iraqi people are denied their basic human and political rights, Iraq can never take its rightful place among the comity of nations. End of summary executions, torture, denial of freedom of press and thought, and denial of fair trial and the right to travel is an absolute necessity before the regime in Baghdad can regain for the country its international and regional stature.

Making peace with its neighbours is of course a complementary step that the regime has to embark on starting with Kuwait. Many countries in the region cannot be expected to normalise their ties with Baghdad as long as the Kuwaiti-Iraqi contacts are non-existent. That is why we see a glimmer of hope in the Iraqi decision to locate the missing Kuwaitis as it could very well usher in a new era in relations between the two states.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IN ITS editorial Tuesday Al Ra'i daily echoed Crown Prince Hassan's call on the world community to help the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) carry out its services to the Palestinian refugees in a manner that would preserve their dignity and humanity. Stressing that neither the agency's services to the refugees nor the various Arab-Israeli agreements can deny the refugees have the right to repatriate, the paper stressed that as long as they are deprived of their homeland, these unfortunate people are entitled to social, health and educational services as provided for in the U.N. Security Council resolutions until they are repatriated. The paper said that in his address to the donor nations meeting, Prince Hassan reaffirmed Jordan's commitment to continue helping the Palestinian refugees, but he also stressed that the refugees are still awaiting the world community's assistance to them either to get compensation for their lost lands or to be repatriated to Palestine. Provisions made in the peace treaties between the Arabs and Israel for the refugees problem to be tackled constituted only one single step towards addressing their problem and serving them justice, stressed the paper. It said that the services provided by Jordan and the agency can only help reduce the refugees' sufferings, but only when a lasting and just solution has been found, can the refugees be served justice.

A WRITER for Al Dustour criticised a decision by Trad Al Qadi, a deputy from the northern Badia district, to resign, saying that having run for elections, any deputy must remain steadfast and dedicate his time and effort to serving his district and the nation at large. Citing the deputy's given reasons for resigning from Parliament which, he said, were prompted by heavy pressure by the public in his district requesting his help for employment in government offices, Mohammad Subeili said that the deputy should have made it clear that he was not elected for such a task but rather to help enact laws and monitor the government performance. The writer said that Mr. Qadi also cited his opposition to the government's actions as being behind his decision, but the deputy should have realised that it is the Parliament's duty to discuss and also bring about the desired change in the government's policies if they fail to satisfy the public, added the writer. Stressing that the deputy's resignation was unjustified, the writer said that if all the opposition deputies resigned from Parliament, the government would then have the field left totally for itself and the image of democracy in the country would be severely damaged.

### Washington Watch

## 'A clean break' — disturbing outline of shape of things that could be

A DISTURBING yet significant document has recently come to my attention. Titled "A clean break", it was prepared by what is described as "A study group on a new Israeli strategy towards 2000" and was published earlier this year by the Institute for Advanced Strategic and Political Studies. That institute is headquartered in Jerusalem, but has also opened an office in Washington.

"A clean break" is a strategy paper that outlines a series of policy recommendations for the new Israeli government. The paper even suggested specific language which Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu should incorporate into his speeches during his July visit to the United States.

What makes the document significant is the fact that many of the recommendations proposed and even the specific language suggested appear to have been adopted by Mr. Netanyahu. The themes and policy proposals found in "A clean break" were echoed by the Israeli prime minister repeatedly during his many public addresses in Washington.

What makes this strategy paper disturbing, however, is the fact that the study group leader responsible for preparing "A clean break" is Richard Perle, a former assistant secretary of defence in the Reagan administration. Perle is currently serving as a key figure in Republican presidential nominee Bob Dole's foreign policy team.

The remainder of the study group includes other Reagan-era officials, who have also been identified as Dole advisors.

In its dual capacities as advisor to the Republican nominee and strategist for the Likud prime minister, the study group is calling for an end to the peace process and the beginning of a Reagan-style cold war campaign in the Middle East that will establish Israeli hegemony, destabilise the Arab World and, in effect, institute a new order based on peace by conquest.

In the opening of their document, the Perle group discusses how the Labour-led peace process undermined Israel and led to "strategic paralysis". "While there are those who will counsel continuity, Israel has the opportunity to make a clean break; it can forge a peace process and strategy based on an entirely new intellectual foundation, one that restores strategic initiative and provides the nation room to engage every possible energy on rebuilding Zionism."

The elements of the new strategy the Perle group recommends are contained under a number of headings which are summarised below.

1. A new approach to peace

The first recommendation made in the report is for the new prime minister to redefine peace and

emphasise Israeli security as essential to peace. This section of the report reads:

"Early adoption of a bold, new perspective on peace and security is imperative for the new prime minister. While the previous government may emphasise 'land for peace' — which placed Israel in the position of cultural, economic, political, diplomatic and military retreat — the new government can promote Western values and traditions. Such an approach, which will be well-received in the United States, includes 'peace for peace', 'peace through strength' and self-reliance: the balance of power."

"Israel's quest for peace emerges from, and does not replace, the pursuit of its ideals. Israel can now embrace negotiations, but as means, not ends, to pursue those ideals and demonstrate national steadfastness. It can challenge police states; enforce compliance of agreements; and insist on minimal standards of accountability."

This reference to "Western values... which will be well-received in the U.S." and the rhetoric the study group advised Netanyahu to use are pure Reaganisms: "We are the good and the just; they are the forces of darkness. We can't show weakness or compromise, for if we do, we betray our values."

For Netanyahu's Washington speech, the Perle group proposes the following language:

"We have for four years pursued peace based on a New Middle East. We in Israel cannot play innocent abroad in a world that is not innocent. Peace depends on the character and behaviour of our foes. We live in a dangerous neighbourhood, with fragile states and bitter rivalries. Displaying moral ambivalence between the effort to build a Jewish state and the desire to annihilate it by trading 'land for peace' will not 'secure peace now'. Our claim to the land — to which we have clung for 2000 years — is legitimate and noble. It is not within our own power, no matter how much we concede, to make peace unilaterally. Only with the unconditional acceptance by Arabs of our rights, especially in their territorial dimension, 'peace for peace' is a solid basis for the future."

striking Syria's drug-money and counterfeiting infrastructure in Lebanon... paralleling Syria's behaviour by establishing the precedent that Syrian territory is not immune to attacks emanating from Lebanon by Israeli proxy forces; striking Syrian military targets in Lebanon, and should that prove insufficient, striking select targets in Syria proper; Israel can also take this opportunity to remind the world of the nature of the Syrian regime. ... Given the nature of the regime in Damascus, it is both natural and moral that Israel abandon the slogan 'comprehensive peace' and move to contain Syria, drawing attention to its weapons of mass destruction programme, and rejecting 'land for peace' deals on the Golan Heights."

3. Moving to a traditional balance of power situation

As the U.S. during the Reagan era was overcome with the euphoria of developing costly strategies designed to contain and disrupt the "evil empire", and the building of alliances to project hegemony, the Perle group proposes that:

"Israel can shape its strategic environment, in cooperation with Turkey and Jordan, by weakening, containing, and even rolling back Syria. This effort can focus on removing Saddam Hussein from power in Iraq — an important Israeli strategic objective in its own right — as a means of foiling Syria's regional ambitions."

To accomplish these goals, the Perle group proposes grand schemes to enmesh Turkey and Jordan in a regional power struggle that would "redraw the map of the Middle East" in a way that would "threaten Syria's territorial integrity."

To ensnare Jordan, the Perle group proposes that Netanyahu:

"...visit Jordan as the first official state visit, even before a visit to the United States, ...support King Hussein by providing him with some tangible security measures to protect his regime against Syrian subversion; (and) encourage — through influence in the U.S. business community — investment in Jordan to structurally shift Jordan's economy away from dependence on Iraq."

Additionally, they propose to "divert Syria's attention by using Lebanese opposition elements to destabilise Syrian control of Lebanon" and engaging tribal alliances through Turkey and Jordan that could further destabilise the Syrian state itself.

In one of its wilder moments, the Perle group suggests that:

"King Hussein may have ideas for Israel bringing its Lebanon problem under control. The predominantly Shiite population of southern Lebanon has been tied for centuries to the Shiite leadership in Najaf, Iraq, rather than Iran. Were the Hashemites to control Iraq, they could use their influ-

ence over Najaf to help Israel wean the south Lebanese Shiite away from Hizbollah, Iran and Syria. The Shiites retain strong ties to the Hashemites: the Shiites venerate foremost the Prophet's family, the direct descendant of which — and in whose veins the blood of the Prophet flows — is King Hussein."

4. Changing the nature of relations with the Palestinians

This section of the report begins with the recommendation that "Israel has a chance to forge a new relationship between itself and the Palestinians."

To encourage this, the Perle group insists that Israel reserve for itself the right of "hot pursuit," i.e., the right to enter into Palestinian controlled areas. They also propose that Israel insist on "full Palestinian compliance", stating that "Israel has no obligation under the Oslo agreements if the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) does not fulfill its obligations" by closing down all of its operations in Jerusalem and bending to other well-known Israeli demands.

Since the report writers do not feel that the PLO can perform as they demand, a replacement ought to be found for the PLO. "To prepare for this," the report states, "Israel may want to cultivate alternatives to Arafat's base of power. Jordan has ideas on this."

And if this were not enough, this section of the report includes the recommendation of a new Israeli practice: The discrediting of the Palestinian Authority by insisting that it "be held to the same minimal standards of accountability as other recipients of U.S. foreign aid. A firm peace cannot tolerate repression and injustice. A regime that cannot fulfill the most rudimentary obligations to its own people cannot be counted upon to fulfill its obligations to its neighbours."

In other words, Israel is not to be held accountable for human rights violations, but the Palestinian Authority which has been forced by the U.S. and Israel to "crack down" is to be condemned. Like anti-Soviet human rights crusades of the Reagan era, their concern is obviously not the protection of human rights, but the discrediting and ultimately replacing of the Palestinian Authority.

5. Forging a new U.S.-Israeli relationship

It is within this area that the efforts of the Perle group to transpose the Reagan cold war model on Israel and the Middle East is most clearly on display.

To "manage and constrain" U.S. reaction to their plan to transform the peace process, the Perle group recommends that Prime Minister Netanyahu "formulate policies and stress themes he favours in language familiar to the Americans by tapping into themes of American administrations during the cold war which apply well to Israel."

By Dr. James Zogby

Instead of operating like the Labour government, which the writers accuse of inviting U.S. intervention into Israeli affairs in order to overcome domestic opposition to "land for peace," they propose that the new Israeli government "make a clean break from the past and establish a new vision for the U.S.-Israeli partnership based on self-reliance, maturity and mutuality — not one focused narrowly on territorial disputes. Israel's new strategy — based on a shared philosophy of peace through strength — reflects continuity with Western values by stressing that Israel is self-reliant, does not need U.S. troops... and can manage its own affairs."

Finally, à la Reagan, the report proposes that Mr. Netanyahu seek U.S.-Israeli cooperation in developing a "missile defence system" which they suggest would not only protect Israel but would also "broaden Israel's base of support among many in the United States Congress who may know little about Israel, but care very much about missile defence."

It is clear that the peace process is in deep trouble today. In fact, it is correct to note that the process was in a downwards spiral even before the new Israeli elections. But if the writers of "A clean break" are in fact influential in shaping Israeli and U.S. policy, then the election of a Likud government presents grave new dangers not only to the peace process but to the peace and well-being of the entire Arab World.

It is clear, so far, that at least some of the rhetoric and strategic thinking of this group has been adopted by the Netanyahu government. For this group of Reagan-era Dole-Netanyahu advisors to be ultimately successful, their U.S. candidate must not only win but must personally adopt their strategic thinking as well. It is clear that at least as a candidate Bob Dole has been heavily influenced by the themes of the Perle group. In his platform and his recent addresses, Dole spoke of "working more closely and smoothly with a Netanyahu government than a second-term Clinton administration", "not preempting Israel's sovereign right to devise its own national security policy", supporting Netanyahu's call for "peace through strength", and "not pushing Israel to give up the Golan Heights."

The question, of course, is would President Dole follow the same line as candidate Dole; and would the group that appears to be influential in proposing language for his speeches and those of Prime Minister Netanyahu be brought into a Dole administration in positions where they would be able to make coalescing U.S. and Israeli policies launch a bitter and destabilising Middle East cold war.



## Road modes

By Ali Kassay

The rapidly changing world of trends is a most unpredictable one. What is fashionable and highly desirable today may become totally inappropriate and unacceptable tomorrow, which is a good thing, since it keeps one on one's toes. However, despite its inconsistency, it would be wrong to accuse the world of being capricious, since many of these changes are often justifiable if one were to consider the social, economic, or sometimes logistical reasons behind them. This, of course applies not only to modes of dress and social behaviour, but to every aspect of our lives.

Take, merely as an example, road construction. When people started to build motorcars, and then roads on which to drive them, it was generally believed that roads ought to be flat to permit the greatest comfort for motorists and their passengers. Then, when road building developed into a fine art, planners felt that there were areas where an excessive rate of speed put the life and limb of pedestrians at risk, so they had road bumps built in order to induce a more sober rate of locomotion.

These trends were not lost on Amman's road planners and builders. But in a peculiar leap, we moved from bad roads, pockmarked with dips and craters which developed by the natural process of wear and tear to road bumps that are built deliberately, without ever having experienced the state of good roads. It is rather like a society that moves directly from barbarism to decadence without passing through a stage of civilisation.

Initially, these bumps were built around schools and hospitals, which was a reasonable prospect. You must have come across them at some point or another. I refer to the large yellow giant cat's eyes, which run across the street and which have a life span of three months before they are uprooted from the asphalt in which they are embedded.

Then, somebody got smart. He decided to capitalise on the economy of scale by importing tonnes of cats' eyes, before prices had a chance to go up. What he did not count on is human nature which would not leave something alone. If you do not have the gadget, you do not miss it; but once you have it, you find yourself using it whether you need to or not. Suddenly, bumps started appearing at the most unlikely places, like at intersections and around the houses of VIPs.

So you happen to be motoring nonchalantly at the regulated speed limit when you suddenly notice that the car in front of you is not moving. Worse, there is an inexplicable line of stationary cars with a clear road ahead of it. As for the occupants of these houses, I wonder if their repose is enhanced by the change from the regular hum of an engine minding its own business to the screech of brakes, followed by two sets of bounces, followed by the hum of the engine proceeding in the general direction of away.

So until this trend follows others that have preceded it to oblivion, it may be a good idea to buy shares in manufacturers of car suspensions.

Ramzi Rihani,  
c/o P.O. Box 926967,  
11110, Amman.

### Encounter on the highway

To the Editor:

I had an encounter with the highway patrol vehicle No. 7867 at 8:20 p.m. on Sept. 13, 1996 at the King Hussein Medical Centre traffic lights. I was driving on the middle lane on the road when I observed a police vehicle zigzagging at high speed behind me. The highway patrol vehicle changed lane three times before it passed me on the right at a dangerous speed and pulled in front of me at the traffic light. The vehicle had no siren on nor anything to indicate that it was on a law-enforcing trip. I thought of all the articles I read in your news-

paper about drivers' behaviour on the roads of Amman and the call upon the traffic police to act and to improve the safety standards on the roads. The highway patrol vehicle 7867 set a very bad example.

While waiting at the red light, the police officer in the vehicle yelled in a rude manner, using loudspeakers, at the vehicle in front of him. I wondered whether the officer expected the driver in front of him to cross the red light. Once more he was setting a bad example. I suddenly understood why drivers in Amman start honking at me when waiting for the green light or at intersections.

Then the police officer yelled at a vehicle that belonged to a diplomatic mission in Jordan. I thought the police, more than others, would be very kind, friendly and protective of official guests of our country. Once more the officer set a very bad example.

I served with the United Nations as an international staff in several countries before returning to Jordan last winter. I always enjoyed the hospitality and kind treatment extended to me by people and police when driving in other countries. The moment people realised I was a guest in their country, they gave me some leeway because they probably thought that I did not know the route, the traffic light cycle or the driving habits.

I hear a lot of aggressiveness and rudeness directed at expatriate staff in Jordan. I wish my fellow citizens would offer our hospitality to our guest and courtesy to each other.

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## UNRWA seeks Arab contribution

(Continued from page 1)

for 1996.

Spain announced that they would substantially increase their contribution by an amount to be determined in the next few weeks.

France announced that its regular 1996 contribution of about \$2.3 million would be paid in the coming weeks.

Denmark announced a \$1 million contribution to a hospital in Gaza and Germany pledged \$1.7 million.

In his opening remarks at Monday's meeting, Mr. Hansen said that the UNRWA's deficit "is too big, and the (austerity) measures already imposed have cut to the bone of the agency."

He added that there was an increasing awareness that assistance for Palestinian refugees was no longer only a humanitarian issue but also played a vital role in the context of the Middle East peace process.

## Cracks appear in alliance

(Continued from page 1)

Sarhan, which journalists said was a pseudonym for Uday, was the first to criticise the KDP since they forged a military alliance Aug. 31.

Mr. Barzani, without cutting completely with Baghdad, travelled to Ankara last week to meet the assistant U.S. secretary for Near Eastern affairs, Robert Pelletreau, and reportedly pledged to distance himself from Baghdad.

The director of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), John Deutch, said Thursday that Mr. Barzani had asked for U.S. help to prevent him from becoming too dependent on President Saddam.

Mr. Barzani said in an interview Tuesday with the United Arab Emirates newspaper Al Itihad that the United States had betrayed the Kurds in the past and that he would seek stronger assurances of U.S. protection in the future.

He added that he had not yet resumed negotiations on Kurdish autonomy with Baghdad.

The U.S. and its allies imposed a ban on Iraqi flights in the north to help the KDP and PUK keep control of the area after they rebelled against President Saddam at the end of 1991 Gulf war, but the two came to blows over power sharing.

The move was hailed here as a return to central government influence in northern Iraq.

# Portugal displays unique array of Stone Age art

VILA NOVA DE FOZ COA, Portugal (R) — Far from the urban bustle, down a long, dusty mountain track in northern Portugal lies one of the world's largest art displays.

None of the artists is known nor has any received a fee or made a sale, and their anonymous work is scattered over several kilometres of riverside rocks.

On show along the banks of Portugal's river Coa are the scratched rock drawings of stone age hunters who inhabited the rolling hills and deep river valleys more than 10,000 years ago.

Foz Coa, 350 km north-east of Lisbon, is regarded as the world's largest open-air collection of Palaeolithic art, with a thousand drawings already catalogued on 36 rock "cavasses" in one site alone.

Archaeologists say the numbers will multiply as investigations intensify in the 14 sites so far identified and extend into fresh areas, including some across the nearby border with Spain.

"Many more are going to appear when we begin to study the rest of the valley and other (river) tributaries," said archaeology Professor Joao Zilhao, who heads the research effort.

The pictorial treasure trove featuring horses, cattle, deer and some animals long since extinct was nearly lost before its full extent had been appreciated.

The Portuguese state electricity company EDP had planned a hydro-electric dam across the River Coa that would have turned the whole area into a large reservoir.

But the scheme was shelved by the new Socialist government in November last year after archaeologists, alerted by initial finds, orchestrated an international campaign on behalf of the rock drawings.

Tensions were exacerbated by the fact that an archaeologist contracted by

EDP discovered the first paintings in 1992 while carrying out a study, but their existence was kept secret for more than two years.

The decision to halt work on the dam was preceded by an highly vitriolic and public battle between archaeologists and the state electricity company which at one point sought to prove that the drawings were not as old as claimed.

EDP issued extracts of studies by four international dating experts appearing to cast doubt on the age of the drawings. But two of the experts have subsequently said that the extracts misinterpreted their conclusions.

Officially, the dam project is only on hold, awaiting a definitive report on whether the drawings belong to the upper Palaeolithic period, 10,000-30,000 years ago.

But Prof. Zilhao, who is coordinating work on the report, says there is absolutely no doubt about what its conclusions will be.

"(The argument) is all over and done with. I do not know anybody that doubts the age of the drawings," he told journalists.

The government also seems to have no doubts because it is helping finance an archaeological park in the area.

The park is part of a 32-billion-escudo (\$207 million), three-year development project for the Coa area, drawn up speedily to compensate local people who feared that loss of the dam could mean lost jobs.

Limits on the availability of transport and guides will restrict the number of visitors to around 30,000 a year — so people will probably have to book in the peak summer season, Prof. Zilhao said.

Since the park opened its doors a couple of weeks ago, some 1,500 visitors have paid the 500 escudos entrance fee and taken the bumpy jeep ride down to the riverside art show.

On one such trip, a group of journalists was taken to a site called Penascosa, one of three out of the 14 that can currently be visited.

The site contains some 15 engravings of differing degrees of clarity collected on three rock surfaces, with the star exhibit being a drawing that the archaeologists jokingly refer to as the "Benetton ad."

The picture shows two horses mating — a theme adopted by the Italian clothes firm in its latest controversial publicity campaign.

One curious aspect of the rock carving is that the head of the male horse is shown in three different positions as if the stone age artist was attempting to give the impression of movement.

"And we thought animated drawing was a 20th century invention," joked Prof. Zilhao, who acted as guide on the tour.

Archaeologists believe the explanation for the preservation of the art lies in the dry climate and the resistant schist rock which abounds in the area.

The same rock is also responsible for the special soils on which the port grape, used for the country's most famous wine, flourishes in this part of the country.

For the archaeologists, the paintings are far more than museum pieces. They offer the opportunity to seek answers to questions about the beliefs and habits of stone age man.

Why were certain rocks chosen, with often several overlapping drawings being done on the same surface, when other seemingly just as suitable sites were ignored?

"We have a wonderful chance to study what they considered important, whether it be for economic, social or religious reasons," said Prof. Zilhao.



Portuguese archaeologist Joao Paulo Zilhao shows a paleolithic drawing, of two horses mating. The head of the male is shown in three different positions in one of the most ancient attempts to give the impression of movement (Reuter photo)

## Israelis disperse protest in Hebron

(Continued from page 1)

the shops.

"It is impossible to live here in Hebron. We're on the edge of the explosion of a new intifada," said one protester, Mahmoud Jabrin, referring to the 1987-1993 Palestinian uprising.

"Police and settlers are working hand in hand. Ever since police closed the shops they have allowed settlers to go inside and use them," said Mr. Jabrin, a member of the Human Rights Research Foundation in Hebron.

The 450 settlers living in Hebron among 120,000 Palestinians claim the market, saying it was built on a former Jewish neighbourhood.

Israel was to have withdrawn from 80 per cent of Hebron six months ago to hand over control to Yasser Arafat's self-rule authority, but it balked after a series of suicide bombings in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv in February and March.

## Israel opens tunnel along Al Aqsa wall

(Continued from page 1)

ministry said.

A first attempt to excavate the new tunnel was made in 1986, but was halted following a spate of demonstrations and complaints from Arab governments.

The site is a flashpoint for Jewish-Muslim conflict, with radical Jews regularly calling for the restoration of a Jewish temple in the place of the mosques. In October 1990, Israeli border guards opened fire on demonstrators at Al Aqsa, killing at least 17 people.

Deputy Israeli Mayor of Jerusalem Shmuel Meir praised right-wing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for deciding to complete the tunnel, which other prime ministers had resisted, apparently for fear of triggering Palestin-

ian violence.

The 488-metre tunnel runs along the Western Wall, the retaining wall along the side of the compound housing the Dome of the Rock and Al Aqsa Mosque.

It comes out on the Via Dolorosa, the traditional route of Jesus' walk before his crucifixion, and was immediately opened to tourists.

Senior Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat told Reuters that policies like the opening of the controversial tunnel "push the Palestinians and Israelis towards... confrontation and catastrophe."

Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid warned at a press conference "against Israel's continued acts of provocation against the Arabs."

The organisation itself

said it was "following with anger the implementation of the Israeli occupation authorities of its plans to Judaize East Jerusalem ... and its aggression against Al Aqsa Mosque."

It said the action was "in flagrant violation of the Geneva conventions (on occupied territories) and U.N. Security Council resolutions linked to the Arab-Israeli conflict."

Warning that Israel was "stirring up anger, increasing tension and running the risk of sparking a popular confrontation," the league called for the U.S., Russian and European sponsors of the Middle East peace process to intervene.

Israel's actions are part of efforts "to impose a fait accompli and change the status quo in Jerusalem," it said.

## Regent denounces Israeli actions

(Continued from page 1)

its status.

The Regent said Jordan would address "this political crisis that affects the Holy City and the life of the followers of the three monotheistic religions."

Jordan will contact the Israeli authorities after the ongoing Yom Kippur holiday in the Jewish state, he added.

A separate government statement also condemned the Israeli actions in Arab East Jerusalem.

"As the Jordanian government condemns these measures, which undermine the structure of Al Aqsa Mosque, change the features of the Holy City and harms the feelings of Arabs and Muslims, it asks the Israeli government to adhere to agreements signed to achieve a comprehensive and just peace in the region," said the

statement, also carried by Petra.

"It also emphasises the need not to change the status of Jerusalem and not to threaten Arab and Islamic rights in the Holy City," it added.

"The Jordanian government will undertake what its duty dictates to preserve Arab and Islamic rights in Jerusalem," the statement said. It called on all Arab and Islamic countries to exert "all possible efforts to preserve the Holy City and not to harm the Al Aqsa Mosque..."

The statement called on the international community, the U.N. General Assembly and Security Council and the co-sponsors of the peace process to "shoulder their moral, political and legal responsibilities to stop these practices and ensure that they are not repeated in the future."

# Kabariti: Opposition should offer solutions

(Continued from page 1)

destroying public property, officials have said.

Mr. Kabariti also blamed animal feed merchants for the campaign against his government.

"Fodder (distribution) was full of corruption," he said. "Seventy per cent of the fodder went to people who owned no sheep." He said those merchants used to buy fodder from the government for JD 70 a tonne and resold it for JD 120 a tonne.

He said those people aided by others had smuggled not only sheep but also drugs and weapons, money that is being used to finance the campaign against the government.

"Why should the opposition then concentrate on the negative and forget the positive" aspects of lifting of the subsidies, the prime minister asked.

He said his decision to lift the subsidies was taken after thorough diagnosis of the problem and consideration of all available options. "The opposition, while aware of the magnitude of the problem, failed to provide any alternatives," he stressed.

"I have not been willing to use sedatives" to cure the problem, he said of his decision to lift the subsidies and avert a budget deficit of JD 180 million this year. "I opted for the (right) solution: surgery."

Mr. Kabariti challenged the opposition to point at

any other model that would be used to cure the country's ills. "Do you want us to follow the model of Iran where corruption is rampant? Or Sudan where 64 people were killed during bread riots?"

On his government's fight against corruption Mr. Kabariti said the task was not easy. "Those who carry out corrupt acts do not leave behind any material clues," he said. He said that while it was not easy to bring corrupt ex-officials to the dock, he challenged the opposition to point the finger at any corruption case involving anyone in his team.

Mr. Kabariti said there was no going back on the lifting of subsidies, but he said he expected bread

prices to go down since world prices have fallen due to the surplus of wheat production this year. He said the government's timing for the decision (of lifting bread subsidies) was perfect since the government's compensation of JD 1.28 to the public was calculated on the international wheat prices which were at their highest. Jordanians will continue to receive the same compensation regardless whether international prices have fallen or not.

Addressing the problem of unemployment, Mr. Kabariti observed that the problem would not disappear until Jordanians changed work patterns especially their preference for public sector jobs.

He said that a sizeable number of the unemployed could replace foreign workers estimated at 400,000.

Mr. Kabariti said that unemployment and poverty will maintain their current levels for sometimes and that the responsibility for finding a solution to them was a collective one.

The prime minister said that the Jordanian model was the best in the region in terms of its attempts to cure its ills through democracy and pluralism and through its endeavours to maintain good relations with all Arab states.

He said Jordan, compared with most other Arab countries had the best rating in strengthening inter-Arab relations.

"Look around you and you will see that some (Arab) countries are about to wage war against each other," he said.

The premier said that people pinned a great deal of hope on the peace process, but that any benefits resulting from peace will not come overnight.

"Yet the U.S., for example, wrote off \$ 750 million of its debts to Jordan and agreed to upgrade the Jordanian Armed Forces; these are some of the benefits of peace."

"As for Iraq, the situation is not normal," Mr. Kabariti added. "I don't understand how (the opposition) wants more freedom and democracy in Jordan in order to use them to support (Arab) regimes that

build their rule on the skulls of their people?"

"There are theories that say politics should be subordinate to economy and others say economy should be subordinate to politics," he said.

"In Jordan, however many people say politics should be in the service of the economy as if our relations with Iraq are only economic."

"I wonder, where was the Jordanian economy and the Jordanian national action when Iraq invaded and occupied Kuwait?" he added.

Defending his government's policy towards Iraq, Mr. Kabariti said that Jordan's interests with Arab Gulf countries outweighed those with the Iraqi regime.

"If we should base our political decisions on economic interests, then we should bear in mind that Jordan used to benefit from a continuous flow of (financial) assistance from the Gulf before Iraq invaded Kuwait and turned it into a governorate. What economy and what relationship are we talking about?"

On another front Mr. Kabariti said Jordan's relationship with the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) was a strategic one.

"We have no alternative but to support the PNA," he said. "There is no other alternative to peace and peace is our strategic option."



## Syria's central bank plans to adjust pound's rate

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria's central bank is planning to adjust the rate of the pound which has been fixed for years at 42 pounds to one U.S. dollar, an official Syrian newspaper said Monday.

Financial sources told Reuters the move, aimed at narrowing the gap with the black market rate of between 48 and 50 pounds to a dollar, follows an unprecedented government decision to allow Syrians to open accounts in hard currency in local banks.

They said the export committee, headed by Prime Minister Mahmoud Zu'bi, approved a decision this week allowing Syrians to deposit hard currency at local banks without having to be questioned about the source of the money.

According to the decision, banks in Syria — which are all controlled and owned by the state — will also give Syrians interest

for their hard currency deposits and freedom to withdraw when they want.

The new decision automatically cancels some articles of an old currency law which prevents Syrians from dealing in hard currency and imposes harsh penalties on violators.

Banking sources say banks have not yet officially received directives to implement the new measure which would certainly pave the way for millions of dollars deposited by Syrians abroad to return home.

Most Syrians now use banks in neighbouring Lebanon and Jordan to deposit their hard currency. Some, including Syrian expatriates, keep their money in international banks abroad.

The Syrian newspaper said that the central bank was now "seeking to adjust the rate of the Syrian pound which was fixed for a very long time."

"Such an effort shows the (central) bank is still going ahead with its plans to minimise the role of the black market to cancel it in the future," Tishreen said.

"Adjustment of the rate is an indicator of the good performance of the financial and monetary situation in the country and not otherwise," the paper said.

It did not say when the adjustment would be made and gave no details about the volume of the adjustment.

The pound's rate of 42 to a dollar, called encouragement or the parallel rate, is currently applied on over 80 per cent of dealings in Syria.

There is also an official rate of 11.2 pounds to a dollar which is still being used on a very limited area and a customs rate of 23 pounds to a dollar is used to calculate customs duties.

## Middle East development bank unlikely, as U.S. Congress refuses funding

From the Jerusalem Post

U.S. CONGRESS delivered a major setback, if not a final blow, to the establishment of a Middle East Development Bank last week, congressional sources said.

Clinton administration officials had hoped that a conference meeting on the foreign aid budget for next year, involving leaders of the Senate and House of Representatives, would insert either an appropriation or a symbolic authorization to support the establishment of the bank.

However, these sources said an effort to approve any authorization failed at a meeting last Wednesday. While an authorization was

proposed by Sen. Frank Lautenberg (Democrat-New Jersey), it was rejected by two key players in the foreign aid budgeting process, Sen. Mitch McConnell (Republican-Kentucky) and Cong. Sonny Callahan (Republican-Alabama).

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was originally cool to the idea of the bank and only made a push for it during his July visit to Washington, but it appears this was not sufficient.

The establishment of the bank was the centerpiece of the U.S.-backed Amman economic conference last fall and was at the heart of former Prime Minister Shimon Peres's vision of a "New Middle East."

It remains unclear if this

will affect the upcoming Middle East economic summit scheduled for Cairo in November, especially as the Egyptian capital was supposed to host the bank.

Neither the House of Representatives nor Senate foreign aid legislation included funding for the bank in its estimated \$12 billion foreign aid bill.

The U.S. had originally agreed to provide more than \$260 million, or 21 per cent, of the bank's start-up capital over five years. The bank was to finance infrastructure projects in Egypt, Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian autonomous areas.

When Labour was in power, Mr. Peres lobbied strenuously on behalf of the bank, and by getting Arab countries to endorse the

notion, convinced the Clinton administration to support the endeavour. As a symbolic gesture Clinton administration officials registered the non-existent bank at the U.N. earlier this month.

Republicans in Congress have been generally sceptical of regional development banks, and slashed U.S. support for other such regional banks for the next fiscal year.

Without American funding, there is little chance the bank will be established. The bank was opposed by leading countries in Europe, which insisted Middle East projects could be funded by existing financial institutions such as the European Investment Bank.

## Arab energy demand to rise 31 per cent in 2000 — study

ABU DHABI (AFP) —

Energy consumption in Arab oil-producing states will increase by about 31 per cent in 2000 and the bulk of the growth is projected in the Gulf, an official report has showed.

Consumption of crude oil, gas and other energy sources in the 10-nation Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is forecast to rise to 6.47 million barrels per day (bpd) in 2000 from 4.93 million bpd in 1995. OPEC said in a study on energy demand and supplies in its members.

Consumption in Saudi

Arabia, the world's top oil producer and exporter, will surge to 1.97 million bpd from 1.47 million in 1995 while it will grow to 640,000 bpd from 470,000 bpd in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and to 285,000 from 250,000 bpd in Kuwait.

In Egypt, the most populous Arab country, demand will climb to 805,000 bpd from 692,000 bpd while in Iraq it will soar to 855,000 bpd from 540,000 bpd. The report also forecast steady increases in the other members — Bahrain, Algeria, Syria, Qatar and Libya.

A breakdown showed demand for crude oil in the organisation will rise to about 3.33 million bpd from 2.71 million bpd while gas consumption will increase to 2.92 million equivalent barrels per day (bpd) from 2.06 million bpd. Growth was also predicted in power and coal consumption.

All the oil and gas consumption in the Arab region is met through local production as it sits atop 60 per

cent of the world's total proven crude reserves of about one trillion barrels and one fifth of the global gas reserves of nearly 140 trillion cubic metres (4,666 trillion cubic feet).

In the 22-member Arab League as a whole, energy demand is set to grow to 7.17 million bpd in 2000 from 5.53 million bpd in 1995, the report showed.

Consumption of crude oil will reach 3.9 million bpd from 3.2 million bpd.

## Egypt's trade figures give government some comfort

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian exports of goods other than oil rose in March and April compared to the first two months of the year but they failed to match the peak levels of early 1995, according to trade figures.

The figures confirmed that early 1995 really did not mark the start of an export boom but the government can draw some comfort from the latest gains.

Expanding non-oil exports is an important economic target as the Egyptian government sets about the task of liberalising trade in line with a draft agreement it has made with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Foreign economists say the exchange rate for the Egyptian pound remains a disincentive but Egyptians insist they can pull off the export boom mainly by removing bureaucratic obstacles. The exchange rate has hardly changed against the U.S. dollar for

five years despite relatively high domestic inflation.

The figures showed that non-oil exports in March and April were worth 1,402.5 million pounds (\$412 million), compared with 938.4 million pounds in January and February.

But for the whole four-month period they slumped to 2,341 million pounds from 3,028 million in the same months of 1995.

Overall exports in the January-April period rose to 4,427 million pounds from 3,608 million last year because oil exports more than made up for the decline in the non-oil sector.

The value of oil exports is highly volatile, despite steady production, because of changes in world prices and because some of the revenues appear to arrive in large instalments.

Imports continued to rise sharply in the four-month period, pushing the visible trade deficit to record levels.

They cost Egypt 12,978 million pounds, compared with 11,388 million in the period January-April 1995. After taking reexports into account, that left a deficit of 9,475 million pounds, against 7,710 million in the same four months of 1995.

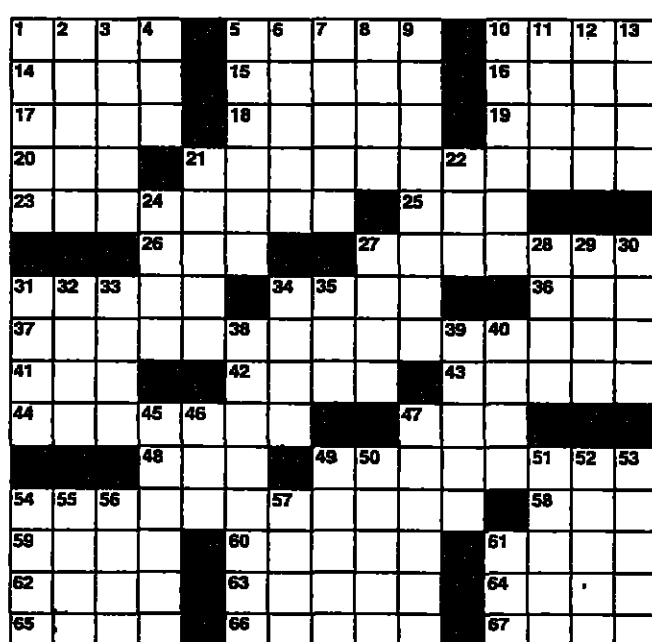
But the structure of the imports could be interpreted as encouraging for the Egyptian economy. Consumer imports fell 1.9 per cent while imports of capital goods and raw materials both rose sharply, by 14.6 per cent and a staggering 95 per cent respectively.

High demand for capital goods suggests high levels of investment and the raw materials should lead to higher industrial production. The government has said it is more interested in expanding non-oil exports than in cutting the trade deficit, which is more than covered by receipts from remittances, tourism, the Suez Canal and other service exports.

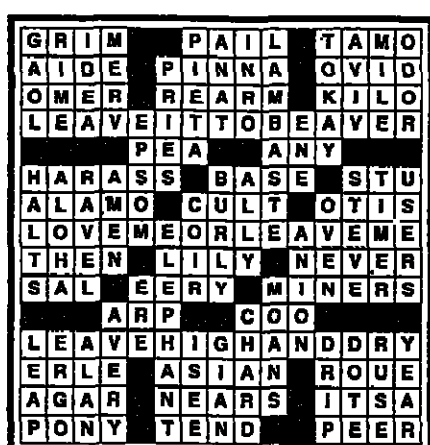
### THE Daily Crossword by Gerald R. Ferguson

#### ACROSS

- 1 Eliza's creator
- 5 Home of a famous falcon
- 10 Hence
- 14 Christmas travelers
- 15 Crazy as —
- 16 Fix in place
- 17 Don Juan's mother, a la Byron
- 18 Frightful
- 19 Baseball play
- 20 Actor/director Howard
- 21 Trains for a bout
- 23 Gallies
- 25 Owns
- 26 Yon maiden fair
- 27 Studies
- 31 Make use of
- 34 Endure
- 36 Hawaiian food
- 37 Flattened
- 41 Bullring cheer
- 42 Brandy fruit
- 43 Subterfuges
- 44 Calmed
- 47 Witty remark
- 48 — Luis Obispo
- 49 Chinese restaurant dish
- 54 Wranglers
- 58 Hit sign
- 59 Comic's pooch
- 60 Inventor Howe
- 61 Open carriage
- 62 Offering at VMI
- 63 Balm
- 64 Mexican money
- 65 Formerly, once
- 66 Barker's speech
- 67 Dow of war



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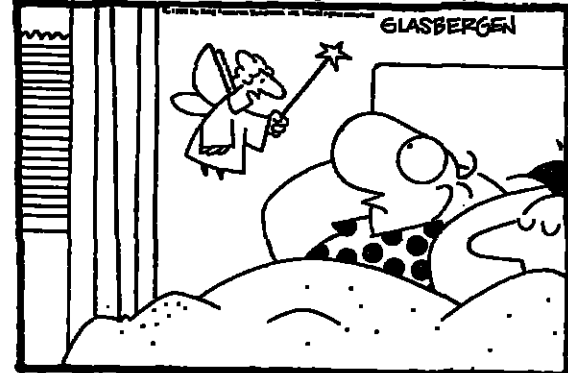


#### DOWN

- 1 Simper
- 2 Red River city
- 3 Contract negotiator
- 4 Gifted one
- 5 Kitchen utensil
- 6 Northern road
- 7 Oceans
- 8 Bull: Sp.
- 9 No place special
- 10 Print in relief
- 11 Chef's thickening agent
- 12 Disappeared
- 13 Table scraps
- 21 Storage spot
- 22 — relief
- 24 Chew the fat
- 27 Bert, of "Oz" fame
- 28 Musical piece
- 29 Not in session
- 30 In session
- 31 Tumults
- 32 Field mouse
- 33 Impressed
- 34 Well — (refined) abbr.
- 35 Flight plan info: abbr.
- 38 Candor
- 39 Jockeys' aids
- 40 On the — (disagreeing)
- 45 Detail
- 46 Greek letter
- 47 Tidbit

- 49 Frank extra
- 50 Fling
- 51 Wedding attendant
- 52 Get the lead out
- 53 Vacillates
- 54 Reactor part
- 55 Osmatic stimulant
- 56 Intelligence
- 57 Thunder report
- 61 Health farm

### THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen

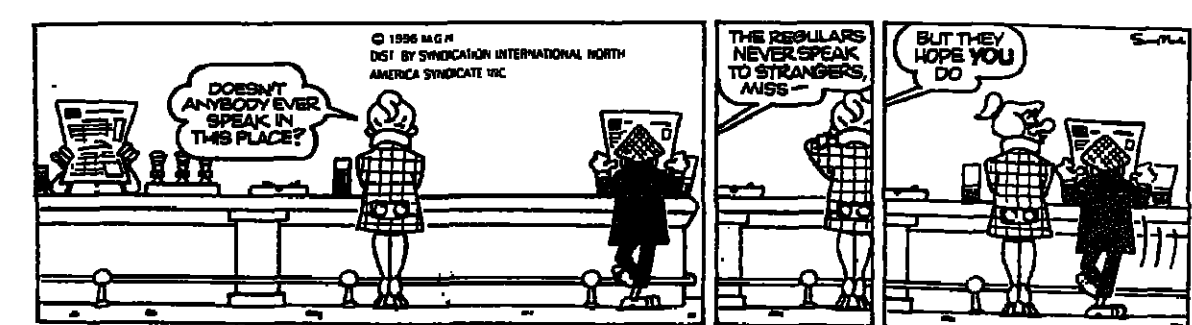


"I'm the Tooth Fairy. I should have been here long ago, but I was stuck in my doctor's waiting room forever!"

### Peanuts



### Andy Capp



### Mutt'n' Jeff



### HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 25, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) By using a different attitude today you can easily get out of some debt to another. Get the situation cleared up later this evening so that you can gain the respect of someone in authority and make great success in the days ahead.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 21) During the day-time today you can better comprehend how your close friends operate and learn from them. Later this evening you will be able to complete new career activities which can be important to your prosperity.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Do whatever will bring more understanding today between loved ones and outsiders so that there won't be any misunderstandings. Later this evening handle public matters well and you can gain the success which you desire.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Look to a good friend for ideas today which can help you to produce more in the days ahead. Later this evening will be quite beneficial if you can consult with a knowledgeable person and gain the insight for your career activities.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Monetary matters would be wise to handle today, however, get advice first so that there won't be any differences present. Have a nice evening tonight with your mate and have a wonderful time together and be quite affectionate.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Listen to the views of a superior today before you come to an agreement on any career activities which you are presently involved in. The evening tonight look fine for fun so get away with close friends.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 23) You can improve a personal relationship with the assistance of a knowledgeable person. First you should improve things with fellow associates so that your labour efforts will run quite smoothly in the days ahead.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Although business and property affairs have you preoccupied today, take time to plan recreations for the days ahead. Later this evening will be good for you to seek the advice of those in authority and follow what is said.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Get business interests handled today even though you are more concerned with personal matters. Later tonight you can meet with fellow associates and devise a method of operation for you to complete a new project.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Try to incorporate new ideas today into your daily routines with the assistance of influential people who have the knowledge for your success. Later this evening you can gain the advice of a bigwig and make your career activities quite successful.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) A kind person will help you today to aid a close friend who comes to you for assistance concerning career activities. Business associates are helpful later this evening concerning your advancement in the days ahead.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) The aspects are good today, so get on up the business world and accomplish as much as you can and thereby gain recognition of someone in authority. Later this evening will be quite beneficial to your career activities.

**Birthstone of September:** Sapphire, Lazuli.



# Hoteliers reject claims of real growth in tourism sector

According to Nael Kassar, general manager at the four-star Petra Forum, "The reduction in the number of European tourists, our biggest market, has been around 60 per cent this year."

"This is the worst year since the Gulf War, and we

prices by \$20 per person," Mr. Kawar continued.

His views are shared by Robert Firz, general manager of the five-star Movempink in Petra, who indicated that the negative trend has not spared Jordan's major tourism attraction, supposedly one of the areas to benefit most immediately from the peace process.

The brand new JD12 million hotel logged an occupancy rate of only 12 per cent since first opening its doors. Mr. Firz told the Jordanian Times.

"The disorders in Karak and the consequent bad publicity for the country greatly harmed the business," Mr. Firz said, "and we received more than 1,500 cancellations," from the time the hotel opened, last April.

"The businessmen from the Gulf who have to finalise a contract come to Jordan, despite the events in Iraq or Karak, but the Italian or English families who want to enjoy their holidays and represent the real source of profit for our operators change their plans," Mr. Firz noted.

Looking at the investors who have just started or are in the process of starting the construction of new hotels, they are trying not to despair.

"We know that this is a very difficult period, but we believe that, sooner or later, the peace process will bear its fruits and the area will catch up," said Mohammad Jaber, member of the board of directors of Dawliyah group, currently involved in the construction of two new hotels in Amman: a JD20 million Sheraton and a JD25 million Hilton.

The fact that more than 30 hotels are currently under construction in Jordan shows that the private sector is very much involved in the tourism sector growth," Dr. Irshaidat

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## Marino injury puts future in doubt

MIAMI (AFP) — Miami quarterback Dan Marino's future was in doubt after he severely sprained his right ankle on Monday as his team lost 10-6 at Indianapolis.

Marino, 35, limped off the field after Miami's first possession, saying he twisted his foot without being hit. X-rays showed no broken bones. "Right now I feel pretty bad," Marino said.

The Dolphins have next weekend off before playing Seattle on October 6.

Veteran Bernie Kosar replaced Marino and completed 15-of-22 passes for 122 yards, but the Colts won the battle of unbeaten. Jim Harbaugh guided Indianapolis on a 97-yard touchdown march, the longest drive in the National Football League this season, lasting 16 plays and almost eight minutes.

The Colts (4-0) are off to their best start since 1977 after handing ex-Dallas coach Jimmy Johnson his first defeat as Miami's coach.

For the first time this season, Miami was unable to establish a running game. The Dolphins managed just 28 yards after averaging 156 yards a game. Rookie rusher Karim Abdul-Jabbar managed only 18 yards on nine rushes.

The Colts played without running back Marshall Faulk, who sat out his second straight game with a sprained foot.



Miami Dolphins' quarterback Dan Marino signals to the sideline during the first quarter of the Football game against the Indianapolis Colts. Marino bowed out due to a sprained right ankle late in the first quarter of the game (Reuters photo)

## IOC committee close-mouthed on Stockholm's chances for 2004 Games

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — At the end of a three-day visit to inspect Stockholm's bid for the 2004 Olympics, the search committee's chairman on Monday gave a cheerful but noncommittal assessment of the city's chances.

"The atmosphere was very friendly and open," Thomas Bach told a news conference after cautioning that he would speak only in generalities in order not to prejudice other cities' bids.

Stockholm was the committee's second stop — after St. Petersburg, Russia — on its worldwide tour to 11 cities seeking the Games. The next city on the itinerary is Lille, France.

The inspection tour is to end Dec. 11 in Cape Town, South Africa. The committee will present its findings to the International Olympic Committee's selection group, which will pare the list to four or five candidates in March.

The clean and orderly Swedish capital, with an extensive and well-organized public transit system, is widely seen as one of the top contenders, especially in light of the complaints about poor security and organizational foulups at this summer's Olympics in Atlanta.

Factors potentially working against Stockholm's bid include plans to hold some events in Göteborg, Helsingborg and Malmö — some 500 kilometres (300 miles) away — and Sweden's high prices.

"The audience can spend only so much," Stockholm bid

committee chairman Olof Stenhammar acknowledged at the news conference. He said the committee has reached agreement with most of the city's hotels to keep the price of rooms at 1996 levels if Stockholm hosts the Games.

The bid committee's promotional material focuses heavily on Stockholm's environmental record, showing photos of the city's clean lakes and men fishing for salmon outside the parliament building in the city's centre.

But some environmentalists believe the Olympics would sully the city.

Bach noted that the Swedish bid committee arranged for the 15-member inspection team to meet "demonstrators and people of different opinions," including environmentalists, but would not give an assessment of their concerns.

"We are an evaluation committee (for the Olympics) — nothing more, nothing less," he said.

Stenhammar also noted there has been local opposition to the Olympic bid, but said the economic effects of the Games would be "very positive for any society, any country. We have to start getting this information out."

Other cities bidding for the Olympics are Athens, Greece; Buenos Aires, Argentina; Istanbul, Turkey; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Rome; San Juan, Puerto Rico; Seville, Spain.

The winner is to be announced in September 1997.

## Super Bowl champs struggling to get act together

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Troy Aikman has experienced the good, the bad and the ugly Dallas Cowboys football.

He has been on a team that won just one game and quarterbacked three Super Bowl champions.

So, he's not ready to declare the defending Super Bowl champions dead and buried. But he doesn't like the trend he has seen developing in the first quarter of the National Football League season.

"This team is still hungry to win," Aikman said on Monday. "We've faced a lot of adversity over the years and we have to fight through adversity again. But I can tell you this, we desperately need a win. If we don't get one soon, we can pack it in."

Aikman was limping around the locker room with a sprained ankle Monday, courtesy of the Buffalo pass rush in Sunday's 10-7 loss that dumped the Cowboys to a 1-3 record. No team has ever rallied from a 1-3 start and won a Super Bowl.

Aikman, who said the bum ankle won't keep him from playing next Monday night in Philadelphia, was puzzled by the Cowboys' poor play, particularly on offense. He had three interceptions.

"I can't answer the question why we can't run the football," Aikman said. "But it all comes down to execution. The offensive line is facing a lot of stunts and twists up front. For some reason the offensive line is struggling. We're all struggling."

Emmitt Smith has averaged only 3.3 yards per rush and scored just two touchdowns. He got only 1.7 yards per attempt against Buffalo and suffered bruised ribs. Smith, a four-time rushing champion who got only 25 yards against the Bills, won't miss any playing time.

At a nearby locker, Smith was just shaking his head. "We're not doing a lot of little things that we've done in the past," Smith said. "We just have to get back to the basics. Whatever changes we make, we have to get them done quickly."

Smith said: "It feels like we haven't played good football in 10 months. To start 1-3 is just horrible. I know I still have the desire to win. I feel my teammates do. I guess I don't know the real reason for our start. Things are just not happening our way."

Then Smith added, "in the seven years I've been a Dallas Cowboy, I've never felt anything like this."

Smith said he didn't think the Cowboys needed a wakeup call, but they sure do have a big one.

"Everybody is going to say we're washed up," Smith said. "Until we get this thing turned around, it sure looks that way."

One thing is clear: The Cowboys don't scare anybody.

Offensive lineman Nate Newton said, "we used to have the intimidation factor. We're not intimidating anybody anymore."

### Falcons' quarterback suspended

Atlanta Falcons starting quarterback Jeff George was suspended on Monday for this conduct detrimental to the team after engaging in a heated argument with head coach June Jones.

George was benched with 5:41 left in the third quarter of Sunday night's 33-18 home loss to Philadelphia after throwing his second interception of the game.

The Georgia Dome crowd cheered as Bobby Hebert replaced George, who was arguing strongly with Jones.

"I guess it's the old saying, if you don't have anything nice (10 say) don't say anything at all," said George after the loss Sunday night.

"Obviously, I don't have anything nice, so it's probably best to leave it at that."

George completed 16-of-23 passes for 217 yards and a touchdown. Hebert, who went 17-of-26 for 149 yards

with a touchdown and three interceptions, will start against the 49ers.

"This was very serious in my eyes," Jones said today. "I had to do what I had to do because it affects the entire team. I'm disappointed and Jeff is too. I feel for him, but he left me no option. I told him that he was playing well, but I was looking for a second-half spark in last night's game. He isn't the scapegoat for that loss."

George held out of training camp for 24 days before agreeing on a one-year transition contract worth \$3.363 million.

Although the contract is the highest annual deal in team history, George was unhappy about not receiving a multi-year deal, and will be an unrestricted free agent at the end of the season.

In three games for the winless Falcons, he is 56-for-99 for 698 yards, three touchdowns and three interceptions. He had the second-largest consecutive starting streak in the NFL at 46, which will come to an end.

George enjoyed his best season in 1995, pushing career highs in completions (336), attempts (557), yardage (4,143) and touchdowns (24) in leading the Falcons to the playoffs.



### INVITATION TO AN INTERNATIONAL TENDER

1. Mu'tah University invite specialized and experienced international companies to submit their bids to the tender for the integrated project "A Modern Computer Center at Mu'tah University" involving the supply, erection, start-up, technical assistance, maintenance and training to trainers to handle the equipment.

2. Bidders should submit a financial offer to the best terms and conditions available in their countries. This financial offer should be a loan for fully financing the integrated project and available as present to the Government of Jordan including the detailed financing conditions, such as:  
- Low interest rate - grace period  
- semi, annual reimbursement.

3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and collect the Bidding Documents at the Liaison Office of Mu'tah University located on Samir Rifai St.-Jabal Amman between 9:00 a.m to 1:00 p.m Saturday through Thursday beginning September 23, 1996 to October 7, 1996.

4. Bidders may offer more updated version of the specific component and equipment called for.

5. Prices are to be quoted on the basis CIF Mu'tah University excluding custom duties and other official taxes And charges, but including 12 month on site warranty and installation.

6. Specifications should be according to specifications stated in the project document which will be handed to the bidders.

7. The offer will be evaluated technically and financially according to our specification and requirement. Contract will be awarded to the best evaluated bidders who would prove capable to carry out the requirements of the contract to be signed.

8. A complete set of the Bidding Document may be obtained from above reference office upon submission of a written application and a payment of a non-refundable fee. All payments will be made by a bank draft or certified bank check in the currency of the purchaser's choice or in cash made out in favour of Mu'tah University. The price of purchasing the documents would be the equivalent in Jordanian Dinars or US\$ currency of the following amounts:

- \* For delivery to personal callers \$ 400.000 per bid document.
- \* For delivery by local mail to local Bidders by courier Service \$ 450.000 per bid document.
- \* For delivery to Overseas Bidders by courier Service \$ 550.000 for bid document.

Closing date for the bid submission will be noon at 12 o'clock, on Oct 30 1996. Bids shall have a validity of 60 days.

Mu'tah University

### SPORTS IN BRIEF

#### Nigerian flyer fit for Grasshoppers

AMSTERDAM (AFP) — Nigerian winger Tijani Babangida was passed fit to play for Ajax against Grasshoppers Zurich here on Wednesday in the Champions' League. But coach Louis Van Gaal said Menno Willems would replace Winston Bogarde if the defender failed to respond to treatment for a bruised foot. Ajax, the 1995 European Cup Winners, welcome back former Dutch captain Danny Blind but forwards Patrick Kluivert and Richard Witschge, signed from Bordeaux in the summer, have long-term injuries.

#### London runners raise millions

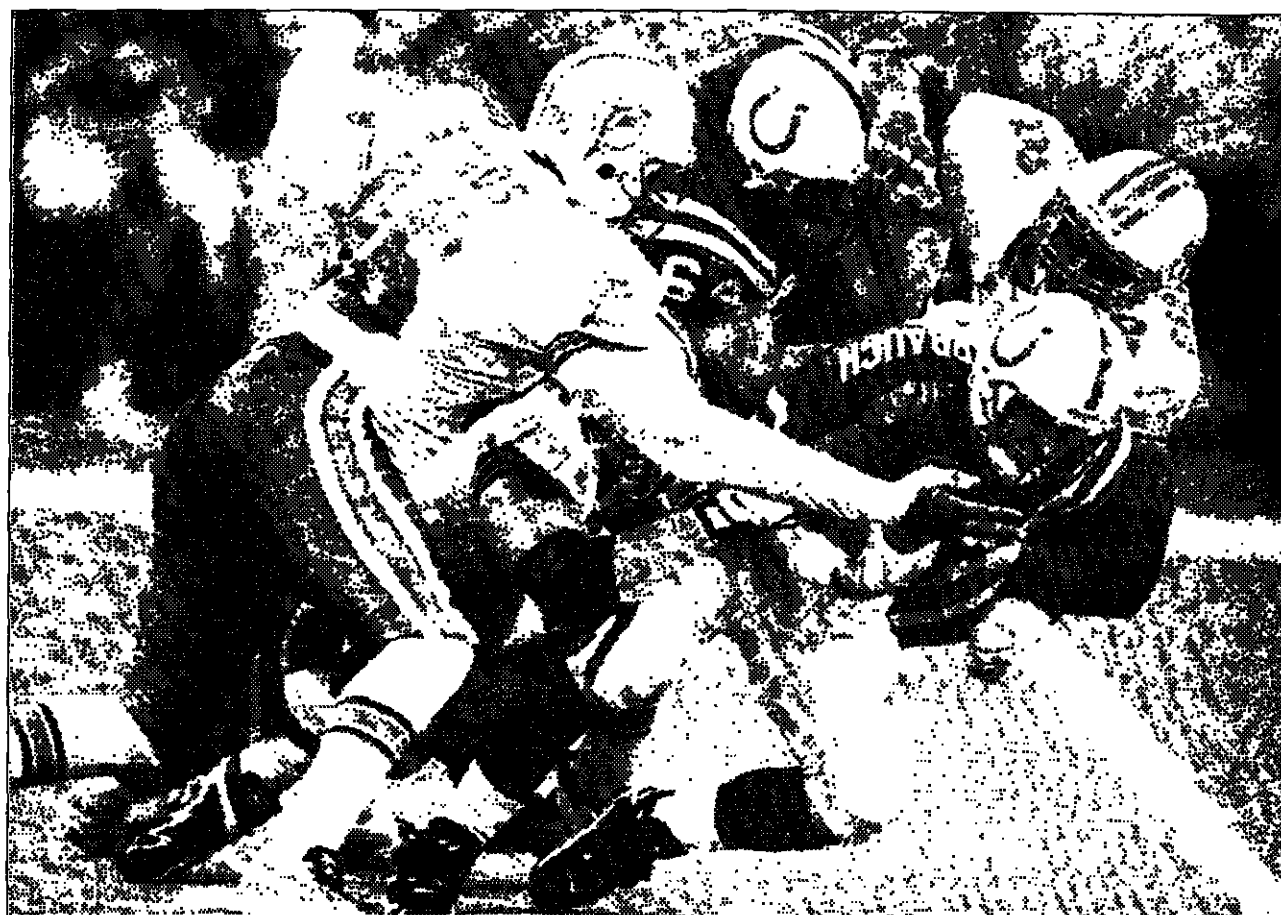
LONDON (AFP) — Marathon runners have shown that the streets of London really are paved with gold. They raised between 10-11 million pounds for hundreds of charities in this year's race, according to a survey. It showed that around 65 per cent of the 27,000 competitors were pounding out the miles for good causes. Organisers, who commissioned the survey, say the results exceeded all expectations. "We have always known that it raises large sums for charity," said chief executive Nick Bitel. "But these statistics have surprised us all. It gives us a great pleasure to see the race making such an impact for so many worthy causes." Some charities are now looking beyond London and sending runners to marathons in New York, Boston and Berlin to raise more money.

#### Thorstvedt retires with back injury

OSLO (R) — Top Norwegian goalkeeper Erik Thorstvedt, 33, has decided to retire after being out of the game for six months with a back injury, the daily Verdens Gang (VG) said on Tuesday. "Now I have finally decided to retire I feel relieved. I had hoped to come back, but when I had to question whether I could get to the end of a single training session, I knew it was over," Thorstvedt told VG. "Maybe my back would have held out, but I risk other injuries if I continue to play." Thorstvedt won 97 caps for Norway. His club career took him to Borussia Moenchengladbach, Gothenburg and the English Premier League with Tottenham.

#### Wimbledon beats Southampton

LONDON (AP) — Efan Ekoku scored two goals as Wimbledon extended its Premier League winning streak to four games with a 3-1 home victory Monday night over winless Southampton. After Marcus Gayle put the dons ahead in the 12th minute at Selhurst Park, Ekoku made it 2-0 in the 39th and added the third in the 72nd. Only Matthew Oakley's 77th minute goal gave Southampton some consolation. Wimbledon, which was in last place with zero points after three games in August, jumped to sixth place with 12 points. Southampton remained next-to-last with two points.



Indianapolis Colts' quarterback Jim Harbaugh gets sacked by Miami Dolphins' defensive end Trace Armstrong for a loss of four yards, late in the first half of their game at the RCA Dome in Indianapolis, September 23. Colts beat Dolphins to go 4-0 on season (Reuters photo)

TODAY AT	<p>CINEMA TEL:634144 PHILADELPHIA</p> <p>Chris Farley &amp; David Spade... in <b>TOMMY BOY</b></p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p>CINEMA TEL:699238 PLAZA</p> <p>The Arab Cinema Surprise Ahmad Zaki ....In <b>NASER 56</b> (Arabic)</p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:45, 11:00</p>	<p>CINEMA TEL:677420 CONCORD</p> <p>CONCORD "1" Arnold Schwarzenegger &amp; Vanessa Williams...in <b>ERASER</b></p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30</p> <p>CONCORD "2" <b>POLICE ACADEMY 7</b></p> <p>Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p>ANNOUN THEATRE &amp; CINEMA TEL: 618274 - 618275</p> <p>Today presents Zawad Weld Awad theatre group in the play entitled <b>Five-Star Government</b></p> <p>Starring comedians: Mahmoud Saimeh &amp; Hussein Tubishat</p> <p>Play starts 8:30 p.m.</p>	<p>NABIL &amp; RISHAM'S THEATRE TEL: 625155</p> <p>PRESENTS <b>THE SATIRICAL COMEDY</b> <b>Arab Human Rights</b></p> <p>At 8:30 p.m.</p> <p>For reservation please call 625155 - 640155</p>
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## 5 declared nuclear powers sign CTBT

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — The five declared nuclear powers signed a milestone global nuclear test-ban treaty at a ceremony here on Tuesday, signalling their political commitment to stop nuclear test explosions forever.

U.S. President Bill Clinton was the first leader of the five nuclear powers to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), which opened for signing at the United Nations on Tuesday following its adoption by the U.N. General Assembly on Sept. 10.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, in a short speech to the government representatives gathered at the U.N. Trusteeship Council, said that "a milestone has been reached making the world a safer place for the generations to come."

Mr. Clinton's signature was followed by that of Chinese Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette, Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov and British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind.

Each signing was greeted by applause.

A total 65 states were due to sign the treaty on Tuesday, including Iran

which has expressed reservations over the pact. But India has blocked the pact from coming into force.

Under the treaty's terms, a total 44 states holding nuclear reactors are required to sign before it can come into force. Nuclear threshold states India, Israel and Pakistan are among the 44.

Israel is to sign on Wednesday, but Pakistan is also refusing to sign fearing Indian nuclear ambitions.

Mr. Clinton, somber in a dark suit, left the meeting hall quickly after signing the treaty.

The outgoing General Assembly endorsed the test-ban treaty on Sept. 10 despite the opposition of India, one of 44 countries that must ratify the pact before it can become law.

India, which conducted its only test blast in 1974, opposes the treaty because it does not require nuclear states to scrap their arsenals.

Nevertheless, supporters believe the treaty will make it difficult for any country to conduct nuclear test explosions in defiance of international opinion.

"It's important to note that we'll be establishing an international barrier against further testing," U.S. Arms

control expert Bob Bell said. "It is our hope that as India looks at the situation itself, it will come to accept that it's in their own national-security interest to sign this treaty."

The Republican party platform adopted at a convention in San Diego last month also opposes the treaty. Republican critics say the pact lacks force unless it is signed by "rogue" states such as North Korea, Iran, and Libya.

Libya joined India and Bhutan last month in voting against the treaty, endorsed by 158 U.N. members.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said Monday his government considered the treaty flawed but would support it.

The new treaty bans all test explosions, including underground blasts.

The 1963 limited test ban treaty prohibited nuclear test explosions in the atmosphere, in outer space and underwater but permitted them underground. The 1974 threshold test ban treaty set a size limit on underground test explosions.

The treaty establishes a network of 201 monitoring stations worldwide to detect underground, atmospheric or underwater explosions.



**TUNNEL SPARKS PROTEST:** An ultra-orthodox Jew holds his head as police escort him from the Western Wall when Palestinians on the Al Aqsa Compound, above and beyond the wall, started throwing stones in a protest over the opening of a tunnel on Tuesday (Reuters photo)

## PLO official says Oslo agreement at standstill because of Israeli policies

AMMAN (Petra) — A senior official of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO's) Executive Committee said here Tuesday that all provisions of the Oslo agreement are "frozen" and everything is on the retreat.

Assad Abdul Rahman, who represented Palestine at the meetings of donor nations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), told a press conference at the conclusion of the meeting that the recent meetings by Palestinian and Israeli officials failed to yield any positive results with regard to the implementation of the Oslo accords due to

Israel's intransigence.

Dr. Abdul Rahman who also heads the Palestinian team to discussions on refugees in the final status negotiations between the Palestinians and the Israelis, said the Likud-led Israeli government was seeking to partition the West Bank town of Hebron in violation of the Palestinian agreement with the former government of Shimon Peres which called for the redeployment of Israeli forces in all West Bank and Gaza Strip towns.

Israel has so far violated the Oslo accords at least 35 times, Dr. Abdul Rahman said. Palestine National Authority is determined not

to negotiate with the Israelis about matters already agreed on with the Peres government, he said.

Israeli settlement programmes, he said, are partly responsible for the deadlock in the negotiations.

Stressing that the Likud government's policies have been driving the Palestinians into despair, Dr. Abdul Rahman said the closure of the Palestinian lands was behind unemployment in the Gaza Strip and West Bank. These developments in the political and economic fields are ruining the peace process, he added.

## More than 100 bodies exhumed from new Srebrenica mass grave

PILICA, Bosnia — Herzegovina (AFP) — More than 100 bodies have been exhumed from a mass grave site in eastern Bosnia, linked to the fall of the Srebrenica enclave last year, an expert involved in the dig said Tuesday.

"Right now we have exhumed over 100 bodies," John Gerns, who represents the International War Crimes Tribunal in the Hague, told AFP.

Mr. Gerns was speaking at the Pilica grave site, which is believed to contain the bodies of Muslim killed when the eastern enclave of Srebrenica, a U.N.-declared safe area, fell to the Serbs in July 1995.

Pilica was mentioned in testimony at the tribunal in the Hague, where Drazan Erdemovic, a Croat in the Bosnian Serb army, admitted to being part of a firing squad that shot line after line of men there.

The grave is in a cornfield

on a hill overlooking the Drina River which marks the border with Serbia.

Mr. Gerns said that the team working at the grave, who had been meticulously cataloguing and removing the decomposed bodies, thought they had reached the bottom.

"We are down to what we think is the bottom of the grave but we still have to continue digging to make sure," he said.

The tribunal in the Hague commissioned the dig, which involves experts from the Boston-based humanitarian organisation, Physicians for Human Rights.

Other mass graves connected with Srebrenica have been dug up at Cerska, where 154 bodies were found, Nova Kasaba, where 33 bodies were exhumed, and Lazete, where at least 58 bodies were found.

Alexander Ivanko, a U.N.

spokesman in Sarajevo, said Tuesday that the international tribunal would not start any new digs this year.

"As far as I understand, the work in Pilica is the last operation conducted by the tribunal because of worsening weather conditions," he said.

But in neighbouring Croatia, tribunal experts have said they have weeks to go before they finish work at a mass grave site near the eastern town of Vukovar.

The grave, at Ovchara, is believed to contain the bodies of up to 261 patients, staff and people who took refuge in Vukovar hospital when the town fell to the Serbs in November 1991.

"They're working seven days a week," Philip Arnold, a U.N. spokesman in Vukovar, told AFP Tuesday.

Last Wednesday, tribunal experts announced that between 25 and 30 bodies had been exhumed from Ovchara.

## Clinton calls for isolation of Iraq, Iran and Libya

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — U.S. President Bill Clinton, addressing the U.N. General Assembly here Tuesday, renewed a call for the isolation of Iraq, Iran and Libya.

Mr. Clinton, who earlier Tuesday had signed the comprehensive test ban treaty, also listed six "priorities" for limiting nuclear danger, including the swift conclusion of a treaty prohibiting the production of material used to make nuclear devices.

Concerning terrorism, the other main theme in his speech, Mr. Clinton reiterated his appeal to quarantine the regimes of Baghdad, Tehran and Tripoli.

Calling on the international community to have "zero tolerance" for terrorism under any form, Mr. Clinton said that "real zero tolerance" requires U.S. to isolate states that refuse to play by the rules we have accepted.

Mr. Clinton recently ordered a U.S. military buildup in the Gulf region after an Iraqi military offensive in northern Iraq.

### Crime and security

The president also reiterated his appeal that other countries adopt his declaration on crime and public security which he proposed last year at the United Nations. He urged them to ratify 11 international conventions that would help stop and punish terrorism and criminalise the use of explosives in terrorist attacks.

Mr. Clinton announced that next week Washington would provide more than \$100 million in aid to Mexico, Colombia and other Latin American and Caribbean countries to "help our friends stop the flow of drugs at the source."

Mr. Clinton asserted the United Nations was "more important than ever before because our world is more interdependent than ever before," but recalled the need for continued reforms in the world body.

Nevertheless he did not mention his desire to see a replacement for U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali, whose term ends Dec. 31.

## COLUMN

Number of Danes who die alone up by 40% in 10 years

COPENHAGEN (AFP) — The number of Danes who die alone and whose bodies are discovered sometimes weeks later has increased by 40 per cent in the last 10 years, according to statistics released by the police here Monday. It said that some 7,091 people had suffered such a death in the last year. "This shows that Denmark has never had so many lonely people, left to fend for themselves, abandoned by their entourage," said Doctor Ole Fendige Olsen, speaking on Danish Radio. He said that one ambulance service often received calls from neighbours who, discovering a strong smell, discovered people in the neighbourhood who had died up to three weeks earlier without anyone inquiring about them. "We are so preoccupied with our daily life that we spend much less time with our families," Dr. Olsen said. "Many people are forgotten by their colleagues only a few days after they retire."

### Mao top seller at Chinese Book Fair

BEIJING (R) — More than two decades after his death, China's late Chairman Mao Tseung has swept the best-seller lists at a Beijing Book Fair, the Beijing Youth Daily said Monday. A two-volume biography of the former great helmsman, three volumes of his selected works and a book of his poetry took the top three best-seller spots at the '96 Beijing Book Fair in the capital's Workers' Cultural Palace. It said. Booksellers at the 11-day fair sold 30,000 of the books by or about Mao, the newspaper said. Mao was guaranteed a top spot on China's bestseller lists during his reign, when his sayings and speeches were required reading and his poems glorified as masterworks. In the 20 years since his death on Sept. 9, 1976, economic reforms that have erased much of Mao's political legacy have also left his writings jostling for space among more populist works and newer political tracts. Also on the top 10 list at the Beijing fair were books by new nationalist thinkers, a record of Sino-U.S. disputes and a history of the chaos of the 10-year Cultural Revolution launched by Mao in 1966.

### 'Chocolate may help your heart'

SAN JOSE, California (AFP) — A California researcher said chocolate may act like red wine in reducing the risk of heart disease, although he acknowledges that more study is needed. Andrew Waterhouse, a wine chemist at the University of California at Davis, found that chocolate contains phenolics, the same chemicals that act as antioxidants in laboratory tests of red wine. "The pleasant pairing of red wine and dark chocolate could have synergistic advantages beyond their complementary tastes," he wrote in a letter to the British journal The Lancet. Some studies have shown antioxidants may guard against heart disease by protecting arteries from getting clogged with cholesterol, although it is not clear whether these chemicals in food act as antioxidants in the body. The researchers found that four milliliters of milk chocolate contain about as much phenol as a glass of red wine. One cup of hot chocolate made with 2 tablespoons of cocoa has about three-fourths as much. But Lois Gold of the University of California at Berkeley, said, "There are better ways to get antioxidants that don't have so much fat. If you eat your fruits and vegetables, you'll get a lot more." But she maintained that "this is an interesting piece of work. It's kind of fun."

## Algerian opposition rejects invitation to join government

PARIS (R) — Algeria's main opposition parties have rejected President Liamine Zeroual's proposal to join in the government while the former ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) still has to decide whether to enter the cabinet.

Mr. Zeroual on Saturday invited all legal opposition parties into his government with the aim of "associating all political partners in the country's management."

The main secular opposition Socialist Forces Front (FFS) said on Tuesday it had rejected the proposal because it disagreed with Mr. Zeroual's whole approach to settle the country's crisis, which has seen nearly five years of conflict between security forces and radical Islamists.

"The FFS wants to give no support for a move which is not seeking a real solution to end the crisis. We had demanded that a neutral government be set up when an accord was reached on a solution. It is not the case now. We reject the proposal," said FFS spokesman, Ali Rachedi, speaking by telephone from Algeria.

The FFS earlier walked out of talks with Mr. Zeroual and it stayed away

from a national conference which ended 10 days ago with a pact being signed by 38 party, union and other organisation leaders.

The pact, most of whose signatories were seen as having little popular support, lends support for Mr. Zeroual's plans to hold a referendum to amend the constitution this year followed by general elections in 1997.

The legal Islamist Nahda Party, whose leader Abdullah Djaballah signed the pact, has also decided against taking part in the government.

"We rejected the idea of entering the government because the authorities linked this also to joining the Transitional National Council," said a Nahda spokesman speaking by telephone from the party headquarters in Algiers.

The council was appointed by the authorities in 1994 to overlook legislation in the absence of a parliament, dissolved at the start of Algeria's crisis in January 1992 when the authorities scrapped a general election dominated by the radical Islamist Salvation Front (FIS). The FIS is now outlawed.

The Nahda spokesman

said: "We see the government as legitimate as it draws its power from Mr. Zeroual who was elected last year. But the council was appointed to replace a parliament."

The other secular parties, Rally for Democracy and Culture (RCD) and Ettahadi, said Mr. Zeroual's plan to "reinvigorate" his government did not interest them. The two groups boycotted the September conference over a row on secularist demands.

While two main parties, the legal Islamist Hamas Party and Algerian Renewal Party (PRA) which signed the pact, are represented in the current cabinet, the FLN said it had taken no final decision on joining the government.

"The FLN's decision will be known on Oct. 4 or Oct. 5 after the party has convened its (policy-making) central committee," said FLN spokesman Mouarri Alimi.

He dismissed an Algerian newspaper report on Tuesday that the FLN, which ruled Algeria from 1962 to 1991, was seeking more than three portfolios and more than five seats in the Transitional National Council.

## New probe raises more questions, tension between Israel, Argentina

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) — The interminable probes of two deadly attacks here, carried out in 1992 and 1994, are raising new questions that have caused tension between Israel and Argentina.

More than four years after a deadly explosion destroyed the Israeli embassy in March 1992, leaving 29 dead and 200 injured, new witness accounts have raised questions about the official version, which had held that a car-bomb caused the blast.

At the same time, three jailed policemen, including a high-ranking officer, have continued to maintain absolute silence in the case of another blast, this one against the Jewish Mutual Association building.

That July 1994 attack left 88 dead and 300 injured. Adding to the mystery is the fact that no one has ever claimed responsibility

for the bombings, despite the fact that Argentine officials have pointed the finger to Iran, though without proof.

The tension between Israel and Argentina mounted in August, after the release of an Argentine supreme court report that the 1992 blast against the embassy was caused by explosives planted inside the building and not a car-bomb. The Israeli foreign ministry "categorically" rejected that assertion, saying all evidence pointed to a car-bomb.

On Thursday, a journalist for the daily "La Nacion," Juan Carlos Lararte, gave details during a three-hour deposition about a conversation he overheard between a federal police officer and an embassy security officer.

Mr. Lararte, who arrived on the scene shortly after the attack, said the security

guard described the blast as coming from within — not outside — the embassy.

Other witnesses testified that they did not see a car in front of the building, as earlier reports indicated.

The new revelations come more than four years after the attack and follow the recent detentions of six Lebanese, a Brazilian and several Argentine businessmen in connection with the attack. They have all been released.

For the moment, 10 policemen — including the three who are in jail — are the only suspects against whom concrete evidence has been presented. They are accused of having furnished the bomb-laden vehicle that was used in the attack on the Jewish Centre.

Yet after months of investigation, authorities are still unable to determine if the two attacks were linked and who the authors were.

DUBAI (R) — Iran is to receive its third Russian-made submarine at the end of 1996 which will enhance its ability to control Gulf waters but does not signal a regional threat, according to diplomats and military officials.

They said the Kilo-class submarine is expected to arrive in the region by the end of December or early January to join two other Kilo-class submarines that Iran bought from Russia.

Iran said on Sunday it would take delivery of the third diesel-powered submarine within six months.

Western diplomats said the United States and Iran's Gulf Arab neighbours are closely watching to see when Iran would deploy the submarine, which can lay mines and shoot torpedoes against military and commercial ships in the world's largest oil-exporting shipping lane.

Washington and Iran's neighbours have voiced strong concerns over Iran's rearmament programme, which Tehran launched after its arsenal was depleted in the

1980-88 war with Iraq.

Iran — which has repeatedly said its rearmament was only for self-defence purposes — is the only Gulf state to deploy submarines in the region which sits on about 70 per cent of world oil reserves.

"Iran having three submarines will enhance its power to control shipping lanes, but we don't see it as part of any intention to threaten any neighbouring country or shipping in the region," one Western diplomat said.

"It means, as with Iran's rearmament programme in general, that its military strength has to be taken seriously...It raises the level of risk in the area," he added.

A U.S. official in the region said he did not see the expected arrival of the submarine as an increase in Iran's capability "but just an increase in the size of its naval forces."

The diplomats said the United States and other Western forces, patrolling Gulf waters to enforce U.N. sanctions on Iraq, were keeping a close eye on Iran's naval activity and could quickly detect any aggressive

intentions.

"The U.S. Navy watches very closely the Iranian submarines as well as Iranian naval forces in the region," the U.S. official said.

The United States currently has 29 ships, including two aircraft carriers, in the central command area, most of them in the Gulf waters. It also has two submarines in the area.

U.S. officials say their forces in the region are capable of dealing with any Iranian threat.

Officials in Washington and in Gulf Arab states have expressed concern since the 1991 Gulf war about what they say is Iran's growing military capability and aims in the region.

The U.S., which accuses Iran of sponsoring terrorism and has imposed sanctions on it, has repeatedly said that Iran continues to pose a threat to regional security.

Iran has rejected all these charges and said Western military presence in the Gulf was the real threat to the region's security and stability. U.S. officials say Iran has restored its capability to fire

anti-ship missiles at sea, has in the past two years tripled the number of missiles deployed on its Gulf coast and is fitting Chinese-built cruise missiles on up to 20 of its naval boats.

### Iran plans destroyer

Iran plans to build its first destroyer as part of an effort to achieve self-sufficiency in defense technology, a naval officer was quoted as saying Monday.

Newspapers here quoted Admiral Mohammad Hussein Shafie, the deputy navy commander, as saying the destroyer would be 88 metres long and have a top speed of 30 knots per hour.

It will be equipped with air defences and have the ability to fight both under and over the sea, he said adding that "necessary studies have been completed."

The admiral, who is in charge of navy coordination, said the navy was also studying manufacturing surface-to-surface, sea-to-air and air-to-sea missiles.